

THE
PARTISAN:

OR, THE
ART of MAKING WAR
IN
DETACHMENT.

WITH
PLANS proper to facilitate the understanding
of the several Dispositions and Movements
necessary to Light Troops, in order to
accomplish their Marches, Ambuscades,
Attacks and Retreats with Success.

Translated from the *French* of Mr. DE JENEY.

By an OFFICER in the ARMY.



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THE ART OF MAKING WAR

BY
LIEUTENANT-GENERAL
H. J. H. H. H.

WITH
ILLUSTRATIONS
BY
J. H. H. H.

NEW YORK
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J. H. H. H.



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TO
MAJOR GENERAL
HOWARD,
Colonel of His MAJESTY'S Third
Regiment of Foot.

SIR!

THE Tumult of a Camp is no great Friend to Reflection; and a Library of Books is neither to be conveyed with the Baggage of a Regiment, nor deposited in a Tent: Nevertheless, a Mind long disused to Inactivity, will look round for Employment, even in the Field; and, like the Bee, will fix upon a Flower from which little is to be extracted, rather than languish in Idleness. His Majesty's Service, or more properly, the Gasconade of his Enemy, having called me from a

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Work

iv DEDICATION.

Work of more Importance, I began the Translation, for which I now take the Liberty to ask your Patronage, principally with a design to beguile the leisure Hours which are naturally abundant in the tedious Sameness of an inactive Campaign. When I had finished the Work, I began to have an higher Opinion of its Merit than I had at first conceived; and concluded, that it might be no unacceptable Book to many of my Brother-officers, especially those in the light Troops, as I do not remember to have before seen any thing of the kind, in any Language.

THE Business of a Partisan has been generally thought so extreamly irregular, that the *French* Writers upon military Subjects, have never attempted to reduce it to any kind of System; which, however, this Author has, in some degree, effected. He has, at least, discovered to us what we are to expect from the Partisans of our Enemy: This it most certainly concerns us to know. The better
we

DEDICATION.

we are acquainted with their general Principles of Action, the greater will be our chance to frustrate their Attempts, and to intangle them in their own Snares.

How trifling soever this little Volume may appear to you, Sir, who are so well versed in military Literature, I cannot help flattering myself that you will think the Subject interesting, as the *petit guerre* may not improperly be deemed a kind of miniature Portrait of the great Art of War. The same Deceptions, *Manœuvres*, and Stratagems, are frequently used by the Commander of a Party, and by the General of an Army; the Writer therefore who instructs the former, may possibly be found not unworthy the Perusal of the latter.

If ever the Original should fall into your Hands, you will find, that I have not endeavoured at a verbal Translation of my Author. He confesses himself to be no professed Writer, and indeed his Book

is a sufficient Proof of the ingenuity of his Confession ; for it is extreamly incorrect, and very improperly pointed. I was therefore frequently obliged to differ widely from the Original in the connexion and distribution of my Periods ; but I believe that I have, throughout the Whole, faithfully expressed his Sentiments.

NOTWITHSTANDING my own Opinion as to the Utility of this Work, I am still convinced that I ought to apologize for desiring you to patronize so insignificant a Performance ; but as it was written whilst I had the honour to be under your Command, to whom could I present my Labour, little as it was, with so much Propriety as to yourself.

AN Author of the last Age would have gloried in an Opportunity of writing a Dedication to a HOWARD, as the Name would have afforded him ample field to expatiate on the Virtues recorded of your Ancestors ; but the present Generation
are

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are of Opinion, that a Man derives no Merit from the Deeds of others, and that therefore, this kind of reflected Panegyrick is too impotent to give Pleasure to a wise Man. As to yourself, Sir, you will not rise or fall one jot in the Estimation of the World, by the Words of a Dedication. Your own Actions must form the Index which will point to your degree of Merit, both to the present and to future Ages, in the Annals of our Country.

I SHOULD be sorry to be thought capable of flattering any Man living, though my Fortune were ever so immediately dependant on his Will; and I shall never expect your interest in my Favour, so long as you can recollect another, more deserving your Recommendation, than myself.

You will, I hope Sir, excuse my not subscribing my Name to this publick Address. You are well acquainted with Mankind, and must therefore frequently

have observed, that in being known as a Writer, a Man may indeed, perchance, acquire a few Admirers, but he will certainly diminish the number of his Friends, particularly among those of his Profession. There is nothing which Men are less inclined to pardon, than an Attempt, in one of their own Rank, to soar, in any degree, above them.

It were foolish to pretend Indifference for the Success of this Translation. If you are not displeased with it, I shall make no doubt of its meeting with a favourable Reception from all those whose Approbation I would desire; and am,

S I R,

Your ever obedient

Warely Camp.
Oct. 17, 1759.

and humble Servant,

The TRANSLATOR.

The

THE AUTHOR'S
P R E F A C E.

THE Work which is here offered to the Publick, does not, I am convinced, deserve the Title of a perfect Treatise. Being little acquainted with Stile and the Art of writing, I do not aspire at the Name of *Author*; nor do I expect that this little Essay should be ranked among the Works of those, who in their Systems of the military Art, have, besides their own Experience, had the additional advantage of Theory and Eloquence. Let it also be remembered, that I am writing in a foreign Language, and that I have no source of Reflection save the painful Service of Twenty-four Campaigns in *Hungary, Silesia, Italy, Turkey, Germany,*

Germany, Flanders, and last of all in Westphalia. Such hath been my Employment ever since I was a Boy, and as I have always belonged to the light Troops, it is easy to conceive that I must have seen and suffered every thing requisite to give me a competent Knowledge of the Subject which is treated in the following Pages.

I have served under many excellent Commanders from whose Actions it may be supposed, I have gathered much Instruction; but I have always remarked, that each General proceeds by different Maxims and is actuated by Principles peculiar to himself.

THERE is nothing so variable as the Art of War: for though our ancient military Writers may have established many excellent and indisputable Maxims, yet, were they now living, they would be obliged to confess that several of their Precepts are useless and impracticable.

THERE

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THERE are also a great number of valuable Books upon these Subjects, of more recent Dates : yet I must beg leave to say that they cannot be implicitly followed without great Danger. This Truth has been fatally experienced in some of our late Campaigns. How many of our Officers, with their Troops and Baggage, have been surprised, notwithstanding the Precautions advised by these Authors ?

IT is by no means my Design to criticise the Works of Men of superior Ability. Many of them have given great Proofs of their Genius and Understanding, and therefore deserve the general Approbation with which they are honoured. They have thrown very striking Lights on several intricate Parts of the Art of War, which they have investigated with great Skill and Perspicuity.

II PRETEND therefore to nothing more than to avail myself of that Liberty which

is due to every Man who communicates his Observations on the System and Practice of the present Times, without derogating from the Merit of former Writers.

As my Design is no other than briefly to instruct a Partisan in the essentials of his Duty, I have passed over several Particulars, which might seem to deserve Attention, either because they were not immediately connected with my Subject, or on account of their having been already minutely discussed.

How concise soever this Work may appear, I doubt not but the Reader will find it a sufficient Guide in his way to military Glory: for, in describing the principal and most eventful Occupations of a Partisan, such as secret Marches, taking possession of Posts, reconnoitring the Country or the Enemy, Attacks by Ambuscade or Surprise, conducting a Retreat. &c. I have said enough, in general, to enable a Reader, of a fruitful

P R E F A C E. xiii

Imagination to invent, and discover every other Resource that may arise from the peculiarity of Circumstances.

THERE is another Advantage which the Reader will find in this Essay: I mean the Plans that are here added to facilitate the intelligence of the Dispositions and Movements necessary to the Success of Marches, Reconnoitrings, Surprises, Ambuscades and Retreats. Every judicious Officer will easily conceive the Utility of these Designs, as he will remark, that by their Assistance, it is possible, with a single glance of the Eye, to discover the most important Theory of this Art, and to form a competent Idea of the manner in which it is to be reduced to Practice.

To prevent the Criticism of those who might accuse this little Volume of Insufficiency, I cannot conclude without repeating, that I did not design to write a compleat Treatise, but a slight Introduction to the *Manœuvres* of a Partisan according

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According to the Alterations that have been introduced by the genius of the present Age. These Alterations will be sufficiently apparent by the difference of my Dispositions from those that have written before me ; the manner of forming my Corps ; the choice of my Recruits and their Arms ; the arrangement of advanced Guards, and their order of March ; my Directions for attacking in Ambuscades, and other Surprises : as well as the Method of forming a secure Retreat.

AFTER all, I shall think myself extremely happy, if having thus explained my Intention, and the nature of my Work, the Purity of the first shall be thought in any degree to compensate for the Defects of the latter.

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DIRECTION to the Book-binder.

PLACE the Seven Copper-plates all together at the end of the Volume; they are to fold out, so as to meet the Eye of the Reader, while the Book lies open before him.

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PARTISAN.

CHAP. I.

Of a PARTISAN'S CORPS.

A PARTISAN, is an Officer sent out upon Party, with the command of a Body of Troops detached from the main Army; which Troops have no other Appellation than that of the PARTISAN'S CORPS.

THIS Corps consists of a Body of light Troops, from One hundred to Two thousand Men, separated from the Grand Army to secure its March, to protect the Camp,

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to

to reconnoitre the Country or the Enemy ;
to surprize their Posts, or their Convoys ;
to form Ambuscades ; and, in short, to
put in Practice every Stratagem that may
harrafs or disturb them.

It is evident that the service of this
Corps, though perhaps the least regarded,
is the most fatiguing, the most dangerous,
and the most extensive. A very little Re-
flection will suffice to convince us, that a
Partisan who expects to be successful,
should command, at least, a Thousand
Men ; without which he will never be
able to sustain the fatigue of a whole Cam-
paign, and to seize those important Op-
portunities which will constantly offer.

It is also necessary that this Corps
should be composed of Infantry, Dragoons,
and Hussars : For we have frequently
found that by uniting the two last they
have, through Emulation, been mutually
excited to Deeds of wonderful intrepidity.

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The PARTISAN. 3

It being incontestibly certain that, in this kind of War, our Cavalry will have the most Employment; it should consequently be most numerous: In a body of a Thousand Men, therefore, Six hundred of them should be mounted and the rest on foot. I would form them into Eighteen Troops or Companies; viz. Six of Infantry, Six of Dragoons, and Six of Hussars.

EACH Company of Infantry should have one Captain, one Lieutenant, and one Sub-lieutenant; two Serjeants, and Sixty-five private Men, comprehending four Corporals, two Lans-corporals, and one Drum.

EACH Troop of Cavalry should have one Captain, one Lieutenant, one Sub-lieutenant, one Quarter-master, and Fifty private Men, including six Corporals, and one Trumpet. To these must be added ten Pioneers for the whole.

It will be highly advisable that the Commander of these Troops should nominate his own Officers, chusing such as are of known Ability, regardless of every Consideration but the good of the Service.

IN order to establish this Corps upon a solid and respectable Foundation, it will be absolutely necessary to maintain the strictest subordination, from the Commander in Chief, down to the private Soldier; and that by the most rigid Discipline, the whole may be accustomed to the utmost Vigilance, Patience, and Attention.

It is surprizing that Troops destined for the most important Employment should be so frequently suffered to neglect their Duty, and to run into Excesses which are shocking to Humanity; without the least Care being taken to reform Abuses so prejudicial to the Glory and Interest of Princes!

The PARTISAN. 5

WITH regard to such Corps as are formed of Detachments from different Regiments, as they are designed only for immediate Purposes, their Numbers and Quality are regulated according to the Circumstances of the Expedition upon which they are sent.

I SHALL add nothing further to this Chapter, except to inforce the necessity of a Partisan's being indulged in the Choice of the Officers and Troops which he is to command. It will be a great means of preventing many Difficulties, Contradictions, and Dangers, which may arise from Jealousy or Diffidence in those with whom he is unacquainted.

C H A P. II.

Of the Abilities requisite in a
PARTISAN.

THERE is no military Employment that requires more extraordinary Talents than that of a Partisan. I shall mention those only which I think most indispensable, as well natural as acquired.

He should be blessed with an Imagination fruitful in Projects, Stratagems and Resources: A penetrating Mind, capable of combining instantly, every Circumstance of an Action; a Heart that cannot shrink at the appearance of Danger; a Countenance so stedfast and assured, as not to discover the least sign of Confusion or Disquietude; a Memory so happy as never to mistake the Names of Persons or Things; a Disposition so indefatigable and alert as to give life to every Part, and to every Action; an Eye so quick and strong
as

as to perceive in a moment every Defect, Advantage, Obstacle, or Danger that may arise; such Sentiments as to inspire Respect, Confidence, and Attachment throughout his whole Corps.

WITHOUT these Qualifications, it will be impossible for him to succeed in this Art. In vain may he flatter himself, by Labour and good Fortune, to become famous in his Profession. Reason and Experience oppose this Presumption. Notwithstanding his Valour and Excellence in other Virtues, his Honour will certainly fall to the Ground.

BESIDES all this, that he may be able to converse with People of all Nations, a Partisan should understand *Latin, German, and French*. He should moreover be perfectly acquainted with the Service, particularly that of light Troops, both of the Army to which he belongs, and of the Enemy: He must be possessed of a very accurate Map of the Theatre of War,

which he must study and examine with the utmost attention. He will find it highly advantageous to entertain in his Service a good Geographer, capable of designing, upon the Spot, the Routs of Armies, their Camps, and every Place that he may have occasion to reconnoitre.

He should spare no Expence to provide himself with faithful and intelligent Spies, that he may be always acquainted with the Marches of the Enemy, their Strength, their Designs, and Position. Such Discoveries as these will always enable him to be of infinite service to his General; will contribute greatly to the safety of the whole Army; as also to the support, good fortune, and glory of his own Corps.

It is likewise requisite, for his Interest and Honour, that he should have a Secretary to keep an exact Journal of his Transactions. It will contain, not only a Copy of all the Orders that he shall receive

ceive and issue out, but also an account of all his Actions and Marches, that he may be always able to justify his Conduct against the attacks of Pique or Envy, to which a Partisan is frequently exposed.

As Commander of a Corps, his Conduct should be, in every respect, irreproachable, always considering himself as the Father of a Family: Thus he may expect to be beloved and obeyed with cheerfulness and zeal.

THERE is nothing more dangerous than for a Partisan to be, in the least degree, attached to Women, Wine, or Wealth: The first will make him neglect his Duty, and will frequently expose him to Treachery and Destruction; the second is the cause of perilous Indiscretions, and always draws down Contempt; the third leads the way to Crimes without Number, and blasts all our Laurels.

I MIGHT extend this Subject to many other Qualities relative to each particular Part; but they will be sufficiently observable in the continuation of this Work.

CH A P. III.

Of the choice of Recruits; of their Cloathing and Arms.

MANKIND are divided in their Sentiments concerning the proper Size of a Soldier, nor are they more agreed as to the form of his Cloathing and the nature of his Arms.

SOME have endeavoured, as well for Infantry, as Cavalry, to procure the tallest Men they could possibly find, imagining their Height to be an indication of their Strength, which is most likely to carry them through the Fatigues to which a Partisan must necessarily be exposed.

THERE are others who, for the same Service, chuse to have their Infantry of a moderate Size, namely, about Five Foot, and their Cavalry Five Foot Five Inches. Mr. *de Grand-Maison*, in his *Traité de la Petite Guerre* is of this Opinion. I am not in the least surprized at it, since it corresponds exactly with the size of his own Person. A Man of Five Foot, says he, square built, is stronger and more able to bear Fatigue than one that is much taller, and consequently much fitter for a Foot Soldier.

THERE is no doubt that a Man of a moderate Size may possibly be more Robust than another of Five Foot Eight Inches; but in this Case we are to judge from the generality of Men, and not from any particular Subject. Every one knows that one Swallow makes no Summer.

LET us cast our Eyes on the Troops of the King of *Prussia*. Are not his Regiments, which are intirely unacquainted with

with Ease or Idleness, composed of the tallest Men in *Europe*? Do we find any other Troops more capable of Fatigue and Hardship.

It is very certain, that Men of less Stature are not to be rejected. For Horsemen, I think, they are rather preferable; but our Infantry should consist of the tallest Men we can meet with: As their Legs are longer, they will naturally make longer Paces when expedition is required; and, in an Action, they will pierce with greater ease, and more certainty.

It is my opinion therefore, that every Foot Soldier, for this Service, should measure, at least, Five Foot Six Inches (Royal Standard) and that Men of a larger Size should by no means be rejected; but it is highly necessary that they should be perfectly well Limbed, not too Fat, and without any bodily Complaint whatsoever.

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THE Horsemen belonging to a Partisan, as well as all other light Horse-men, should be of a less Stature; for if we expect to see our Cavalry alert, and capable of moving with the Rapidity that is required, it is evident that the Horse ought not to be overloaded with a Rider; who, being too tall, will not only retard the Animal by his Weight, but will himself be less capable of remaining firm and straight upon his Saddle.

It is also very easy to conceive, that if we over-weight our Horses, they will never be able to sustain the continued labour and harrassing to which our Dragoons and Hussars are infallibly exposed: besides, the heavier the Rider, the sooner the Horse will gall under the Saddle. For these Reasons, a Boy of five Foot, or five Foot two Inches, is much the fittest for a Dragoon or Hussar.

THE Recruits for our Infantry, as well as Cavalry, should be from Twenty to Thirty-

Thirty-five Years old. Men of this Age are easily met with every where. Young Men are generally desirous to serve in this kind of War. I have even known some of them bribe the Recruiting Serjeant to enlist them.

THE Infantry may be composed of Men of all Nations; but the native *French* and the *Liegeois*, deserve the Preference on account of their natural Inclination. But it is necessary that your Cavalry consist, as much as possible, of *Hungarians* and *Germans*; who, being naturally fond of Horses, are endowed with particular Talents for feeding and managing them with wonderful Propriety, which other Nations do not acquire but by long Practice.

THE cloathing of Light Troops should be made as commodious and light as possible. The present manner of the *Prussians*, in their Foot-uniforms as well as Dragoons, is in my opinion the best in the

the World. During the Winter, they have an Under-waistcoat of strong Serge, double-breasted. My Hussars I would cloath like those of the Queen of *Hungary*. There is no fear of their suffering much by Cold, so long as they are in no want of Provisions: I mean, Bread, Meat, and Brandy; for I would strictly prohibit all kinds of Fruit.

As for their Arms, I know of nothing less inconvenient for the foot Soldier, besides his Musket and Bayonet, than a light short Sabre. I would add two Hatchets, and four Pick-axes, to each Company.

INSTEAD of Broad-swords, with which the *German* Dragoons in general are armed, I would have Sabres, bent like those of the Hussars; for, though I am not ignorant that the Stroke of a Broad-sword is much more effectual, yet I am convinced, upon the whole, that the Sabre is infinitely more advantageous; and I dare say it will be equally evident to every

every one who will but consider the Form of both. The Horse being in full gallop to attack, the Rider who is arm'd with a Broad-sword, carries the Point of it towards the Enemy, whom he endeavours to pierce, and, if he succeeds, must unavoidably stop to disengage himself, and by that means, lose the *momentum* he had acquired: whilst on the other hand, a Dragoon who should be armed with a Sabre, would, in the same Time, without stopping, by flashing at the Enemy, have wounded two or three of them; and, though not mortally, they would be sufficiently disabled for the present: which is all that the Interest or Honour of our Sovereign requires. It is also well known that it is much easier to cut with a curved Weapon, Sabre, or Scimiter, than with a strait one; and it is for this Reason, no doubt, that the oriental Cavalry, which are allowed to be the best in the World, make use of no other.

CHAP. IV.

Of the Choice of Horses, and their Furniture.

THE Hungarian, Turkish, Tartarian, Polish, Norman, Navarre, Westphalian, Danish, English, and Spanish Horses, are all fit for this kind of Service; but the two last are the least capable of Hardship and Fatigue. All white Horses, Stone-horses, Mares, and Mules, must be absolutely excluded; for a conspicuous Object, or the neighing of a Horse has frequently been known to frustrate an Enterprize.

EVERY Horse should be, at least, rising six Years old; for, till that Age, they are by no means able to stand a severe Campaign.

BEFORE we purchase a Horse, it is first necessary to observe that he carries his

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Head in good place; that it be proportionably small; his Eyes clear, lively, not too large nor too little, nor sunk into his Head; his Nostrils open: The *Tartars* frequently slit them to facilitate his Breathing. It is an easy Operation.

WE must also take notice that his Chest be not too strait; that his Legs be fine and muscular, and that they move without crossing, otherwise he will be apt to stumble. His Foot must be round and well hollowed, and his Hoof not strait or pinch'd. His Fore-hand long, his Shoulder well set, and his Back short and horizontal. He should not exceed fifteen Hands in height.

WITH regard to Furniture, I prefer the *Hungarian* to any other that I have seen. Their Saddles are made of dry Wood well jointed. They are not only the lightest, but the least apt to gall the Horse's back, unless it is through the unskillfulness of the Rider, or his carelessness
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in placing his Cloth beneath the Saddle. Before he saddles, he should take care that his Cloth be well shook, and that it retain not the least dust or dirt. He must then fold it, like a Napkin, of such a size as just to exceed the Saddle, on all sides, about two Inches: the Fold towards the Tail of the Horse.

WHEN the Service requires us to keep our Horses saddled Day and Night, each Horse-man should infallibly take some Opportunity, at least once a Day, to unsaddle and turn his Cloth: It will be a great relief to his Beast, and prevent his galling.

AN Officer of Cavalry cannot possibly be too strict in observing that the Men are punctually attentive to their Horses, and that they are perfectly well acquainted with the Manner of feeding and dressing them properly.

HAY, Straw, and Oats, are their common Food ; but too much Hay is by no means good for them : Where fresh Wheat-straw is to be had, it is infinitely better.

WHEN a Horse becomes poor thro' fatigue, the best Method of restoring him, is to bleed him, and to give him Bran mixt up with Water, two or three times a Day.

DURING the Campaign, you are to keep your Horses at hard meat as much as possible ; they will otherwise be too weak for Business.

IN order to have your Horses properly dressed, they should be curried till the Comb brings not the least dust along with it. They must then be well brush'd, particularly about the Mane, the Tail, and the Legs. The Skin of the Back being the most tender, the Curry-comb must

must be there gently used, and your Brush so much the more.

I SHALL not detain the Reader any longer with minute Particulars concerning the cleanliness of the Furniture and the Stable. These things are universally known, and understood, by every Officer of Cavalry, in all Nations.

CHAP. V.

Of Exercise and Discipline.

THE Exercise and Discipline of Troops is the first, and most essential part of the Art of War, and which therefore principally excites the Attention of every martial Prince. It is this Exercise and Discipline which forms both Men and Horses for the Evolutions necessary in the day of Battle. It is that which polisheth away the rust of simple Nature, and disengages every part of the Body from its natural Awkwardness and Rusticity. By this, we

acquire that gracefulness and uniformity of Motion which captivates and surprizes the Spectator. Nor is there any thing of which the Consequences are more interesting, as well in War as in time of Peace : For on this depends the Honour, Merit, Beauty, Strength, and Success of our Troops.

WHEN a Corps is properly exercised and disciplin'd, Order and Regularity is maintained with the greatest facility : the Soul of the Commander extends through every Member : His Prudence, his Courage, his Ability, is visible in every Individual, and his Power is raised to its greatest possible Height.

ON the contrary, where Exercise and Discipline have been neglected, nothing but Confusion is to be looked for, which, in spite of all Command, must continually increase : the Designs of the ablest General will fall to the Ground, and a total Overthrow must be the fatal Consequence,
not-

notwithstanding the most daring Intrepidity of his Troops.

FOR these Reasons, therefore, it is the indispensable Duty of every Officer, to take special Care that his Recruits are properly exercised as soon as they join their Corps. The Dragoons must be first taught the Foot-exercise. They must be particularly instructed how to march; the Body erect; Arms close pressed to the Sides; Head well raised, and thrown back, that they may look forward with the greater ease.

IT were entirely useless to expatiate here on the Words of Command and particular Movements of the Exercise. Each Nation has its own peculiar Maxims and Customs, which are sufficiently known to their respective Officers. It is not my Design to criticise on the unessential difference between one and the other, nor to enlarge my Volume with things that are printed every where.

I CANNOT avoid signifying my Approbation of the excellent Method taken by some of our most judicious Colonels; who, to compleat both Officers and Soldiers, order each Captain separately to exercise his Company in their Presence. The Captain makes his Subalterns frequently do the same. This Method will be found greatly to accelerate the Perfection of every Corps where it is practised; it being very certain that Regularity and Method are no less required in the Command than in the Execution; as well as, that every Officer should not be ignorant in any part of the Soldier's Duty: without this, your Corps can never be tolerably disciplin'd.

As soon as your Cavalier is well versed in the Foot Exercise, he must be taught to mount his Horse, to sit streight, firm, and in the exact Center of his Saddle. The Colonel should be careful to observe that each particular Man be instructed upon the same Principles: He should likewise

likewise be always ready to snatch every peaceable Moment to repeat the usual Exercise, lest any part of it might unfortunately be forgotten.

WITH regard to the Horses themselves, it behoves every Officer to use all his Industry and Patience; for he will find it no easy Task to bring them to a perfect Knowledge of all they are to perform. The best Method of proceeding that I know is this. First, let them be taught to walk, then to trot, and then to gallop. After this, it is necessary to practise them in leaping, and swimming. They must also be accustomed to all the glitter and din of War: and for this Purpose, let them hear the Drum and Trumpet, the noise of Fire-arms, &c. immediately before they are fed. By this means it will, in general, be found no difficult matter to reconcile them to the terrible Sounds and Appearances of War: but if, after repeated Experiments, any one Horse should still retain his Fear or Obstinacy,

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it is always advisable to cast him at once, rather than risk the Consequences, which are sometimes fatal.

ALL Officers, as well at Exercise as on the Parade, should be remarkably attentive to the Position and Dress of every Soldier : For it is the Officer who must answer for every Defect of what kind soever that may appear when he comes upon Duty. Let him first take notice, whether their Arms are clean and in perfect Order ; their Regimentals without Hole or Rent ; their Hair comb'd, and properly done up ; their Sabres and Stirrups uniformly hung ; and, in short, that every thing is, in all Respects, exactly as it ought to be.

CHAP.

C H A P. VI.

Of Subordination.

EVERY Man in the Army knows, that by Subordination, we mean an implicit Obedience to the Commands of our Superiors, and a concatenary Dependence on each other, from the private Soldier up to the General.

WE have seen, in a former Chapter of this Work, that Subordination should extend the Spirit of the Chief to every Member : this single Idea, which is easily conceived, is alone sufficient to give us a just comprehension of its Importance. Without Subordination it is impossible that any Corps can be governed and supported ; that Order can be established, or the Service executed.

IN short, it is this Subordination which is the very Life and Soul of the Army,
gives

gives Effect to Authority, and Merit to Obedience.

BUT if it gives Authority to our Superiors, we must not forget that they are likewise responsible for all Consequences; and that if it reduces the inferior Members of the Army, it secures them also from Reproach: insomuch that in all successful Enterprizes, the blame of Misconduct falls solely on the Commander: Obedience justifies the rest.

THAT Subordination may be properly supported, an exact Conformity is absolutely necessary, as well in those who Command, as in those whose place it is to Obey. The Commission with which an Officer is honoured by his Sovereign, is a sufficient Authority for him to maintain the Dignity of his Post. Neither obscurity of Birth, nor any want of personal Accomplishments, can be a reasonable Exception. His Power is the more solid, as it is not only founded on the

Will

Will of his Sovereign, but supported by his whole Authority : it is therefore the highest Imprudence to dispute it.

THE Words of an Aid-de-Camp, the movement of the Colours, the sound of Trumpets, and the beat of Drums, are so many Echoes, which explain and extend the Orders of supreme Authority, to which every Inferior owes an immediate Submission, even without the delay of a Moment. He must be Attentive, without Diffidence; Respectful, without Murmuring; Implicit, without Reply; Zealous, without Reserve, and Constant, without Wavering. Such an entire Obedience is the natural fruit of our Confidence in, and Respect and Affection for our Commander : It is therefore highly important for every Officer to endeavour to inspire his People with such Sentiments, by an affable Behaviour to each of them, and a constant Attention to their Necessities.

AND

AND yet, notwithstanding all the Necessity and Advantages of Subordination, regardless of the Merit and wise Conduct of superior Officers, we find it frequently violated by Selfishness, Ambition, or Fear; particularly in the Corps of a Partisan, continually engaged in hazardous Enterprizes under the Command, perhaps, of a Man of Abilities, though a Soldier of Fortune. It frequently happens, that all his Merit and Authority shall be incapable of restraining the Pride of certain noble Adventurers, who have no idea of Distinction, save that which is derived from Birth. It is these dangerous Characters; these jealous, turbulent, Spirits; these vain sarcastic Minds, which a Superior should observe with the utmost Circumspection, that he may tame their Arrogance, and prevent their Mutiny, by means that his Prudence will suggest, and his Command authorize.

A Commander should endeavour, by fair Promises, and kind Words, to countenance

tenance the Diffident ; to exalt their Hopes ; to inspire them with Courage, and to strengthen their Valour ; but he should also take especial care to discourage all manner of Dishonesty, Libertinism, and Debauchery, not only by Threatenings, but he will find it necessary to make Examples, by punishing the most Guilty.

NOTHING will contribute more to the Reformation of a Corps than the choice of a good Chaplain, who is universally known to be a Man of Worth and Probity, and who, by his Preaching and Example, is capable of inspiring the Men with solid Sentiments of Religion, which is the only true Foundation of military Honour : Such a Person will have it in his Power to become a principal Instrument towards maintaining a proper Harmony and Regularity throughout the whole.

THERE is one principal Enemy to the Subordination and Obedience of an Army,
or

or Corps, which ought, by all means, to be guarded against; I mean the Impatience, nay often Brutality, of commanding Officers. They should consider that every commissioned Officer is by his Sovereign confessed to be a Gentleman, and has therefore a Right to be respected as such. It is also no less necessary, that a superior Officer should be equally careful to avoid the opposite Extream; I mean, too condescending a familiarity in matters relative to the Service: for that may be productive of fatal Consequences, by insensibly undermining the Authority, without which no Army can possibly exist. A Partisan, whose Corps is generally detach'd from the main Army, should endeavour at all Times to conduct himself in such a manner as to steer clear of these opposite Extreams.

C H A P. VII.

Necessary Precautions on secret Marches.

BY secret Marches, are understood such as are made without the Knowledge of the Enemy, with a Design to reconnoitre their Position, surprise their Camp, or, for some other Purpose, to traverse their Country. It is on this Service especially that a Commander stands in need of all his Sagacity and Penetration, to secure his Success, and prevent his being discovered or betray'd.

BEFORE we begin our March, we should take care to have undoubted Information concerning all the different Roads, Situation of the Enemy's Posts to be avoided, and the nature of the Country through which we are to pass.

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FOR

FOR still greater security, I would advise the commanding Officer to procure a Plan of the circumjacent Country, by the Means which the Reader will find explained in the tenth Chapter, of *Surprises*, Plan III. He will also find it necessary to take along with him one or two safe and intelligent Guides. The same tenth Chapter will likewise instruct him in what manner he may be enabled to judge of their Capacity, and consequently how best to determine in his Choice. Too many of these People is frequently dangerous: the more they are in Number, the more easy will it be for some of them to escape to the Enemy, who being apprized of your Intention, it may naturally be supposed, will frustrate your Enterprize.

ALL things being ready for the March, let your Van-guard A, Plan I. be ordered to proceed: It should be composed intirely of Cavalry. I am not a little surprized, that all the various Authors
who

who have treated of this part of the Art Military, have given so little Attention to this most essential Point. Many of them disregard it intirely; and the rest, not considering sufficiently the Business of this advanced Party, make it to consist of Infantry only. Nevertheless, if they would but consult the ordinary Occurrences that happen on a secret March, their Reason would convince them, that Cavalry are the most proper for this Duty.

WHETHER they are to secure the Peasants who might discover your Rout, or to attack the advanced Guard of the Enemy, whom, by chance, you may Encounter on the Road, and afterwards return to give notice of their Approach, it is incontestible that they will have greatly the Advantage over a body of Infantry in the same Situation; the latter being entirely incapable of giving Notice to the main Body time enough for them to put themselves in a proper Position to engage.

For the same Reasons, in the Night, your advanced Guard should be double the Number to what it is in the Day-time. In an open Country it may be advanced to any Distance, provided it remains in sight of the main Body; but in close Roads it should not, during the Night, be advanced above fifty Paces.

THE Van-guard will likewise order a Non-commissioned Officer, B. with six Light-horsemen to march about fifty Paces in the front of the Whole, divided into three distinct Parties; one in the Centre B. and the other two C. C. on each side of the Road. The Business of these small Parties, is carefully and in silence, to explore every Copse or Cover, and to be particularly attentive that there be no body of Men laid flat upon the Ground, or concealed behind the Trees, or in the Ditches.

At the Distance also of fifty Paces, a Serjeant and ten or twelve Dragoons
D. D.

D. D. must march on each Flank of the main Body. If they should fall in with the Enemy, be they ever so numerous, the Serjeant must charge them at all Events; and, by that means, endeavour to retard their Progress till the Troops have had time to form.

EACH of these flanking Parties must also detach two Dragoons, who are likewise to march at the distance of fifty Paces from their Flanks, and to make good their Rout as well as the nature of the Country will permit. These are mark'd E. E. in the Plan. When they come at an impassable Thicket, or Hill, N. N. they must divide, and join again on the other Side. The moment they perceive the least trace or shadow of Troops, approaching or concealed, they must communicate their Suspicions to the Commander, by passing the Word from one to another.

THE advanced Guard should march slow, lest the Rear should be obliged to gallop. The rear Guard H. as it is chiefly intended to prevent the stragling of your own Men, needs not be very strong.

BOTH Quarter-masters and Officers should take care to keep the Men awake ; for the irregular Motion of a Rider asleep will gall the Back of his Horse immediately, which alone is sufficient to retard your March. No one must be allowed to smoke Tobacco, or to speak a single Word : When they have occasion to cough or spit, they must be ordered to put a Handkerchief to their Mouths, and not to make the least Noise.

IF your Command is sufficiently numerous, it will be best to march the Cavalry by Squadrons, and the Infantry by Platoons. They must alternately succeed each other, so that each Platoon F. F. F. will march in the Front of each Squadron

Squadron G. G. G. By this Disposition, you will not only keep an equal pace upon the March; but, on any sudden Alarm, may be instantly formed for Action, as we shall see anon.

WHEN the advanced Guard perceives any Troops of the Enemy at a Distance, whether by Night or Day, they are to send notice of it to the Commander; but not by any means to pursue them, lest they fall into an Ambuscade; unless it should happen to be a very open Country, where Ambuscades are impracticable. But if it should so happen that they fall in with the Enemy at once without the least previous Notice, as may be the case in the crossing of two Roads; in such a case, I say, the advanced Guard must, without hesitation, charge with all possible fury. They will in all probability succeed, be their Opponents Horse or Foot, provided they lose no time in deliberation. If on the contrary, your Van-guard should precipitately retreat, it is ten to one but

they throw the whole Body into disorder.

As soon as the Commander shall see the Van-guard engaged, he will order his Infantry to face to the Right or Left, whichever may be best to oppose the Cavalry of the Enemy. He will then march them out of the Road and form them, as may be seen by the Letters L. L. L. or, if in the Day-time, on the neighbouring Height M. The whole must front towards the Road, where the Cavalry remain in their order of March, and endeavour to conceal themselves till the Moment they are to attack. In the mean time the first Squadron must advance to sustain the advanced Guard. If the Enemy should return to the Charge, and seem determined to dispute your Passage, your Cavalry must feign a Retreat, till they have drawn the Enemy opposite to your Infantry, who by firing upon them in Flank, will in all Probability soon put them to rout. Your Cavalry
wil

The PARTISAN. 41

will face about at the same Instant, and, as soon as the Firing ceases, pursue them full gallop; which must infallibly compleat their Destruction.

'Tis prudent, upon these Marches, to avoid, as much as possible, all Villages, Gentlemens Seats, and Farm-houses, especially if you march in the Night, lest you should be discovered by the barking of Dogs, or by the Peasants, who may apprise the Enemy of your Approach. It is easy to conceive, that in the Day-time, you are to shun all great Roads and open Plains in traversing an Enemy's Country.

If you find it impossible to avoid passing through a Village, you are to march in close Order, with as many File in Front as the whole Space between the Houses will contain, and to move forward as quick as you can: By this means you will, in a great measure, conceal your Numbers. Two or three Officers should

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should continue in the Rear till the Whole have passed. No Man, upon any account whatsoever, must be suffered to stop or quit the Ranks, though it were but for a Moment. The same Precaution is necessary at the end of every Road which crosses that in which you are marching.

At the approach of any Inclosure, Farm, Wood, Copse, &c. the whole must halt till it has been carefully reconnoitred; nor should you then pass without Circumspection and Order.

AFTER passing a Bridge, Defilé, or Ford, the advanced Guard should be drawn up at the distance of a hundred Paces till the whole have passed, and have again resumed their order of March.

THE Ancients, we are told, made use of Dogs to discover the Ambuscades of the Enemy; but, for my part, I should be so far from depending on such Spies, that

that I would not suffer one of them to be kept by any of my Corps. Nothing can be more dangerous. It is more probable that they will discover you to the Enemy than the Enemy to you.

IT is always adviseable to retain the same Guides that marched out with you. If there should, during the March, be a necessity for another, the Quarter-master must be ordered to secure one as secretly as possible, and conduct him from the Village by some winding Road, that the Peasants may not know which way you are marching. Every Person, whether Traveller or Peasant, who is seen to have observed your Rout, must be obliged to march along with you, and not, on any account, suffered to escape.

WHEN your Troops want Refreshment in the Day-time, you are to halt in a Wood, and during the Night in the open Field; but never near a House, or in a Village, if it can be avoided. You must

oblige the Country People to fetch any thing you may want from some neighbouring Place ; but they must deliver what they bring at so great a distance as not to be able to form any Judgment of your Strength or Quality.

DURING your Halt, you ought not to be sparing of your Centries. Six of your light Horse must always be mounted and ready to fetch in every Person that may come within sight of your Troops. When these Gentry become numerous, it is necessary to tie them together, and take good care that none of them escape till the Blow is struck. The Officers should be attentive that none of the private Men are suffered to pass the Centries. If you are under a necessity of making your Halt near to some Farm-house or Cottage, your first Business must be to surround it, and when you proceed on your March, you must oblige the Farmer to go along with you, threatening him first, in the Presence of his whole Family, with immediate

mediate Death, if any of them dares to stir from the House till his Return.

THE Quarter-masters should be provided with a good number of Nails, and every Horseman must have a Peck of Oats, and a Horse-shoe, in his Haversack.

THE best Season for secret Marches is the depth of Winter; for, at this time, both the Peasants and their Dogs keep within Doors, and the Enemy think more of guarding against the Cold, of which you that are upon the March are less susceptible, than of securing themselves against any Attempt upon their Lines or Garrisons.

If you happen to come near any of their Posts in a stony Road, where the noise of the Horses Feet might discover your approach; the best way is to spread the Dragoons Cloaks, and let the Horses march over them. This Expedient was frequently of service to me in *Italy*.

C H A P.

C H A P. VIII.

Of the choice of Posts, and the Precautions necessary for their Security.

POSTS, in the military Language, are those Places where any number of Troops are lodged separately from the Army, which they are intended to cover and secure from insult. Their Situation is commonly determined by the Commander in Chief, unless some Partisan happens to have gained his Confidence, in which case, he generally gives him a discretionary Power to pitch upon such Places as shall appear to him most for the good of the Service and the benefit of his Corps.

A PARTISAN, in the choice of a Post, should previously examine whether it be so situated as to facilitate his Excursions
towards

towards the Enemy, when he shall be ordered to reconnoitre their Camp, to harrafs, or surprize them ; whether he has any natural Defence in Front or on his Flanks, such as Rivulet, Morafs, or Wood, that may be easily cleared ; whether he will be able to preserve his Communication with the Army, and in case of necessity, to secure his Retreat ?

THESE Questions being answered in the Affirmative, he will proceed to take Possession in the following manner. The Foot are to continue under Arms in the Center of the Place, whilst the Cavalry make the Tour on the out Skirts. The Commander, escorted by twelve Hussars, will, in the mean time, take a more extensive Survey of the Country, that he may regulate his Plan of Operation accordingly. It would not be imprudent to send out, still further, small Detachments of Hussars ; they will enable him to make his Observations with more leisure and greater security.

HAVING

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HAVING now form'd a distinct Idea of his natural Strength, and also of those Parts that are most exposed to insult or surprize, he will then fix his main Guard, as for instance at D. Plan II. fronting towards the Enemy. He will also point out the adjacent Heights proper for posting the Videttes E. E. E. E. Their Number is determined by Circumstances and Situation. In a close Country not only your Videttes must be numerous, but all your Guards doubled. A non-commissioned Officer with eight Dragoons, should always be advanced fifty Paces in front of the Guard, ready to march upon the first Signal from any of the Videttes: See the Letter K.

THIS Guard being fixed, he will order another to be form'd in the center of the Village, which is called the ordinary Guard, and is composed both of Cavalry and Infantry. Sentries are to be posted at every Entrance into the Village, and Videttes upon all the neighbouring Heights,

Heights, at such a Distance as to see each other.

BESIDES, it will be necessary to mount a Piquet before the head Quarters (the Commander's Lodgings) which ought to be near the ordinary Guard. During the Day, half the Cavalry of the Piquet must keep their Horses bridled and ready to mount; but, if the Enemy is near, they must continue on Horse-back. The other half may unbridle till the Hour for Relief.

ACCORDING to the Plan which I have laid down for the Corps under the command of a Partisan, the main Guard may consist of a Captain of Cavalry, a Lieutenant, a Sub-lieutenant, Quarter-master, and Sixty private Men, including six Corporals, a Trumpet, and Farrier.

THE ordinary Guard should be composed of the same number of Cavalry as the main Guard, with an equal number

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of

of Officers and private Men of the Infantry.

THE Piquet is of the same strength and quality as the ordinary Guard.

A PARTISAN who commands a less numerous Corps, will provide for his Security in proportion to his Abilities. He must endeavour to post himself in some Hamlet, Country-house, Farm, or Convent: for the more extensive the place, the more fatiguing to the Troops that possess it, as your Guards, Videttes and Sentries, are proportionably numerous.

IF there should be any Copse or Cover, in the neighbourhood of your Post, without the Circle of your Patroles, that might veil the approach of the Enemy, it will be necessary to mount a Guard there during the Night, more or less numerous according to the importance of the Place.

THE

THE Guards and Piquets being mounted, the Sentries and Videttes properly posted, and all the out Detachments return'd, the next Business is to barrack your Troops in the Gardens contiguous to the Commander's Quarters, and by clearing away the Hedges and filling up the Ditches, to level in your Front, a Space sufficient to contain your whole Force when drawn up in order of Battle.

If there are Graneries, they will make excellent Stables for your Cavalry; but in case there are none, you must build Sheds for them as well as you can, taking care to leave a sufficient Opening in the Front for the whole to issue forth in proper order for charging.

THE Officers are to occupy the Houses adjoining to the Barracks; but it will be proper for one of a Company or Troop, to remain with the Men Night and Day, to prevent their going into the Village without leave.

THE Commander will indicate to all the Troops, the Place of general Rendezvous M. in case of Retreat. It should be at some distance from the Village, and such as may best secure his Retreat to the main Army.

AT the setting of the Sun, the main Guard must retire within the Post, and join the Piquet ; one half of the Cavalry of which must continue on Horse-back till the dawn of Day, when the main Guard are to resume their Station. Sentries and Videttes must be doubled, and every Opening, except that in the Front, block'd up by a double line of Waggon.

The Videttes are to be relieved every Hour by two Corporals of the ordinary Guard. They will march out together, but having past the post A. Plan II. they will divide their Command, and wheel round to the Right and Left, one relieving the Videttes B. B. B. and the other, those at C. C. C. which when they have performed

formed they are with the relieved Videttes, to make a reconnoitring Tour of two or three Miles, as you will see dotted in the Plan.

BESIDES this, the Captain of the main Guard will send out double Patroles which are constantly to march half an Hour after the relieving Parties during the Night, and to pursue the same Rout.

On the return of each, the Corporals must report to the Officer of the ordinary Guard, and the Patroles to the Captain of the main Guard.

It is prudent likewise, a little before the setting and rising of the Sun, to dispatch a grand Patrole, commanded by an Officer, with orders to examine scrupulously the entire *Environs*; especially such Places as are capable of concealing any number of Troops: For these probably are the Times when the Enemy will attempt to surprize you.

As Sentries are but Sentries, it is absolutely necessary to repeat to them each Particular of their Duty, every time they are posted. No smoaking, on any account; for the least Spark of Fire in the Night, may prove a sufficient guide to the Enemy. They are not to walk above five Paces to the Right, and as many to the Left, of their Post; nor are they ever to retire under cover, let the Weather be what it will. They are to suffer no Soldier to pass them; on any Pretence whatever: This will prevent Marauding and Desertion.

THE Videttes are to stop all Passengers, and conduct them to the next Sentry. The Sentry must pass the Word for the Corporal. who is to go along with them to the Commander. If there appears to be any number of People, the Vidette is to bid them stand the moment he perceives them; and make them keep their Distance till the Officer shall have sent a proper Party to reconnoitre them. If they appear to be of the Enemy, he will fire his Piece at them, and retire immediately.

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ON the first Alarm, both the main Guard and the Picquet are instantly to mount their Horses. They are each of them to detach a Subaltern with a Party of such as are best mounted to meet the Enemy. The remainder of the main Guard and the Cavalry of the Picquet are then, under the Command of their respective Captains, to march in order to support the first Detachments, and repulse, or at least detain, the Enemy till the Commander shall have time to form his little Army. If he finds their Force not too greatly Superior, he should, without hesitating a moment, put himself at the head of his Cavalry only, and charge them with all the Vigour and Impetuosity in his power. In the mean time the Infantry will have sufficient leisure to make an advantageous Disposition to support him.

WE must not here forget a very essential Circumstance, namely, that the moment the first Detachments march off; the whole Infantry of the Picquet should

retire to the place of Rendezvous assign'd in case of a Retreat, and should speedily be followed by a strong Party of Cavalry from the main Body. If your Rendezvous should happen to be so situated that the Enemy might possibly occupy it before you, and by that means, cut off your Retreat entirely: To prevent such a Disaster, it will be necessary for the Infantry of the Picquet to keep constant possession of it, together with a Lieutenant and twenty Horse, to be employ'd in Patroles and reconnoitring Parties.

SHOULD it seem that the Enemy are greatly superior, and that they are moving to surround you, the Commander must fall back his Troops to the place of general Rendezvous, where he is to halt till the whole have join'd, and then conduct his Retreat in the manner directed in the XIIth Chapter of this Book, in which the Subject will be more amply discuss'd.

FOR

FOR your greater Security in a Post where you are likely to continue some time, and where you have reason to expect frequent visits from the Enemy, it may not be amiss to cause your People, with the assistance of the Peasants, to throw up slight Intrenchments in those Places that are most exposed, to secure the Woods by frequent Abbatis (Trees cut down) the Fords with Stakes, and your Front, by sinking Pits in the open Plain, into which their Cavalry must infallibly plunge if they should attempt a *Coup de main*. If in your Front, or upon either of your Flanks, there should happen to be a Bridge, as at N. which might facilitate the Approach, and Retreat of the Enemy, it must be instantly broken down, unless you imagine it may be of service to you, in which case you are to secure it by a strong Guard.

THAT the Commander may form his Plan of attack and defence to the greatest Advantage, he should take a very accurate
Survey

Survey of every Avenue to his Post, and regulate accordingly a Scheme of Operation suitable to each, whether it be to cut off their Retreat, or to take them in Flank by some blind Road convenient for the Purpose. He will not fail to inform his Officers of his Designs, and to hear their Opinions, especially of those of experienced Abilities. Such Precautions will be of infinite Service in his Attempts to surprize the Parties of the Enemy which will be sent to reconnoitre his Post.

IF they should approach you in the Night, you are not to attack them upon any account whatsoever: for it will be impossible to judge of their Strength, and they are supposed to be informed of yours.

LET no suspected Women come among your Troops: their Visits are dangerous on many accounts, as they will not only debauch

debauch your People, but may give intelligence to the Enemy.

No Deserter must be suffered to remain with you: if any of them come over in the Night, let them be detained by the Sentries till Day-break, and then conducted to the Army.

You are to suffer no body of Troops whatever to come within your Post, unless they can produce a proper Passport from the General, or that you are acquainted with some of their Officers. Give no credit to the Parole, nor their Uniform; but desire them politely, yet very seriously, to return by the way they came, or otherwise that you will treat them as Enemies. You are to continue under Arms till they have passed all your Guards. This Conduct will teach other Detachments to take proper Precautions for their admittance.

THE

THE Officers should be ordered to remain as constantly as possible with their respective Corps, Troops, and Companies. Their Hours of Repast should be so contrived, that the private Soldiers should never be left entirely without Officers.

It is as necessary to be careful of our Provisions in the Field, as if we were at Sea. The Officers should be satisfied with a few Dishes, and those of plain, wholesome, Food. Indulgence of every kind has always been an Enemy to military Virtue.

THE Bed of a Partisan is the same with that of his Troops, *viz.* his Cloak, and a little Straw. He must never strip but in the Day-time, in order to change his Linen. It will be advisable for him to rise frequently during the Night, and visit his Out posts; especially in bad Weather, for it is then that he has most reason to expect Attempts from the Enemy.

Nothing

Nothing encourages a Soldier so much as the frequent Presence of his Commander. The rest of his Officers will not fail to follow his Example. This I myself have frequently experienced, to my very great Satisfaction, as I found it to have a happy Influence on my whole Corps.

DURING the Campaign of 1757, one of our Partisans wrote to *M. de Maillebois*, that he had seized a very advantageous Post, and had taken every necessary Measure to prevent his being surprized. It happened that I was detach'd the Night following, to reconnoitre the Enemy. By chance I fell in with this Post: but how was I astonish'd, to find every Man in the Place, both Officers and private Men, fast asleep! It was now dawn of Day. I had scarce time to awake them before the Enemy appear'd. Fortunately, I was ready to receive them. We amused them till Noon, when we were joined by the Army.

NOTHING

NOTHING can be more dangerous for a Corps than to have an indolent and delicate Commander, embarrassed with an useless train of Domesticks, superfluous Equipage, Camp-beds, Kitchen-furniture, and, in short, every other Appendage of Luxury and Effeminacy. Such fine Gentlemen generally pass their whole Time in Bed, or at Table, abandoning the Security of their Posts solely to the Vigilance of their Guards, who, not being answerable for the Conduct of their Commander, most certainly neglect their Duty, and are easily surprized. When the Place is lost we hear loud Complaints, and every one endeavours to exculpate himself by impeaching another; but the Equity of the General will soon cast the whole Reflection upon the Commander. How many Instances of this kind does our last Campaign in the Electorate of Hanover afford? How many of our Parties were surprized and taken with all their Baggage, which was sacrificed, through the Negligence or Inexperience of
of

of our Commanders, to the laudable Vigilance of our Enemies?

A WISE Partisan is convinced that he cannot too attentively, watch every Motion of the Enemy, who will frequently cause false Alarms with a design to throw you off your guard, and deceive you into an idle Security, which sooner or later will certainly prove fatal.

I AM by no means of the same Opinion with those who despise a false Alarm, and, in order to spare their Men, never make them stand to their Arms till they are assured of a real Attack. On the contrary, I think myself authorised by Experience to maintain, that upon the least alarm from the Videttes, you should beat to arms immediately: And though the Troops which are approaching should prove to be a Detachment from your own Army, the instant you are apprized of it, you should reconnoitre, receive, or pursue

sue them, with all the Attention that the Custom of War requires.

I AM far from being apprehensive that such Accuracy and Diligence, as I have recommended for the security of a Post, will prove an unnecessary Fatigue to your Troops: on the contrary, it will contribute greatly towards inuring them to Hardships, augment their Courage, Watchfulness and Dexterity; whilst, on the other hand, the inactivity of a Corps palls upon the Spirits, and softens the Heart of the Soldier.

A PARTISAN who adheres scrupulously to these Maxims, need be under no apprehensions of a Surprize. Were he even situated in the most woody and inclosed Country, it will be impossible for the Enemy to advance within a quarter of a Mile of his Post, without his being apprised of their Approach, either by the Videttes or Patroles. Five Minutes being sufficient time to form, he will have at least

least ten Minutes more to consider what Steps are most prudent to be taken; whether it be advisable to attack, defend, or retreat.

WHEN a Partisan establishes his Post in an Enemy's Country, his first care must be to provide for the Subsistence of his Corps. He will immediately send out Parties, as far forward as possible, to oblige the principal Villages to supply him with all the Forage and Provisions in their power; reserving those that are nearest, particularly that of which he is in possession, till the last Extremity.

As it is above all things required, that he should send constant Intelligence of all his Proceedings to the General, he must be very careful to secure his Communication with the Army.

C H A P. IX.

*Precautions necessary in Recon-
noitring.*

RECONNOITRING Parties are small Detachments sent out to bring intelligence of the Enemy, or of a particular Country or District: if the first, it is to observe their Position, March, or Force; but if the Country be the Object, they are to give an account of its Roads, Advantages, and Embarrassments. Which-ever be the Design, it is necessary for the commanding Officer to be accompanied by a skillful Geographer or Drafts-man; who must be mounted on one of the very best Horses, that, in case your Escort should at any time happen to be dispersed by a superior Force, he may stand the better chance to escape with his Papers and his Discoveries.

ALL

ALL Parties detach'd with a design only to reconnoitre, should consist of twelve to twenty Men at most. No Officer, of what Rank soever, can object to the insignificance of the Command. Though he marches with a small Number, the Expedition is of the last Importance to the Service, and frequently of infinite Advantage to his Prince. If he is successful, he cannot have a stronger Recommendation to his General, as there is no Duty which requires more Fortitude and Abilities.

It is self-evident that your Success depends entirely on your Intention being kept secret, and that unless you can conceal your march from the Enemy, you may as well continue in your Camp. Now there is nothing plainer than that you have a better chance to escape their Observation with a small Detachment than with a large one.

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As these Parties are to march as expeditiously as possible, it is generally advisable to compose them entirely of Cavalry; unless your Object is at a considerable Distance: in that case you may augment the Party with thirty Foot, who are to continue in some place of Ambuscade about half way on the Road, where the Cavalry will leave the Provision they may have made for their Refreshment.

As to the Precautions to be taken upon the March, I must refer the Reader to Chap. VII. with this difference only, that your flanking Parties are to consist of no more than two private Men, who are always to keep the commanding Officer in sight.

THE Partisan, who is detached in the front of an Army, should have his Instructions in writing. He will so regulate his March as to reach the Place, where he is to begin his Observations, about break of Day. Whenever he is obliged to

to halt, his Troops must front towards the Enemy ; and, if there is any high Ground near the Place, he will detach a Corporal with two private Men, to take a View of the Country in the mean Time. When he comes near the Enemy's Camp, he must not, on any account, halt in or near a Village.

THE Particulars, of which the Officer as well as the Geographer, are to take special Notice, are Hills, Vallies, Woods, Lakes, Morasses, Rivers, Rivulets, Fords, Bridges, Roads, Boundaries, difficult and dangerous Passes, Bye-ways, Meadows, Fields, Heaths, Distance and Strength of Castles, Villages, Farm-houses and Mills ; also to whom the Country belongs, and what it produces.

THE moment you are discovered by the Enemy, though you might not have finished your Observations, you must assemble your Troops and rejoin your Infantry, which we are to suppose were left

in a Wood, or in some other Place secure from the Enemy's Cavalry. After having taken a little Refreshment, you will return to compleat your Remarks. If you are obliged to retreat as far as your Post, it will be necessary to defer your Business till the next Day. The precise Hour of Noon is the Time when you have the least to apprehend; for it is then that detached Parties are the least frequent.

You are, at any rate, to avoid coming to Blows, even though you were assured of Success, unless it should be in your Return, and that you are near enough your Post to be heard by the main Guard, who will not fail to cover your Retreat.

If at any time you should be under a necessity to cut your way through a body of Troops who may have intercepted your Retreat, the only means of Safety is, to charge them full Speed without the least Hesitation. If the Observations you have made are of Importance to the Army,
you

you must do all in your Power to save the Geographer, though you were to sacrifice the rest of your Detachment.

WHEN you are sent out with a Design to reconnoitre the Enemy's Camp, their Numbers and Position, you must approach them with great Caution. The dawn of the Day is by no means the best time for this Business, as you will then infallibly fall in with some of their Patroles or reconnoitring Parties. You must therefore be beforehand with them, and advance towards them in the Night. Their Position and Extent may be easily discovered by the Fires at their quarter Guards and advanced Piquets; and it is no less easy to know if they are about to change their Situation, by the extraordinary Noise in their Camp. There are also many other Particulars that may be observed in the Night, as you have it in your Power to advance within so little a way of their Camp, without the least Danger.

UPON the whole, Mid-day is the best time for the Geographer to make his Observations. From the Hours of Twelve to Three he may pass from the Summit of one Hill to another, without much Risk; for, as I have already said, there are seldom any Parties detached from an Army during that Time.

You will be careful to seize every Person you meet, and not release them till you have executed your Orders.

THERE is yet another Method that may be practised for the Security of a Party sent to reconnoiter; which is, to let it be composed of such Men as speak the Language of the Enemy, and to disguise them in Surtouts resembling the Uniform of one of the Enemy's Regiments, with Cockades of their Colour. It is possible to double the Deceit by lining their Surtouts with the resemblance of some other Regiment. Thus by turning their Coats they will appear to be another Corps,

Corps, and so deceive their Spies, their Guards, the Peasants, and confound their Reports.

CHAP. X.

Of Surprises.

A SURPRISE in the language of War, is a sudden and unexpected attack upon the Enemy. The ways of putting this in Execution are infinitely manifold: for all the Stratagems that have hitherto been imagined to deceive and seduce the Enemy, were, in fact, so many different methods of Surprise; the Circumstances of which are so various, that it is impossible to exhibit a perfect Detail of the Matter, notwithstanding the Assistance of so many excellent Writers upon the Subject.

SURPRISES in general may be divided into two distinct Classes; namely, such
as

as are attempted by a sudden and unexpected Attack upon the Enemy's Camp, Lines, Posts or Garrisons; and those which are executed by means of an Ambuscade, when they are upon the March. The first of these shall be the Subject of this Chapter: which that I may not extend beyond my usual Limits, I shall mention only the most essential Particulars.

FIRST then I would establish as an invariable Maxim, that you are never to attempt to surprise a Post of the Enemy, without being previously assured of its Situation, Strength, and Importance: three Circumstances that are absolutely necessary to be known.

THE next thing is, to make yourself well acquainted with the circumjacent Country; to be particularly informed of every Avenue, Morass, River, Bridge, Height, Wood or Cover, that may appear to have any connexion with the Place.

Without

Without such Intelligence, it will be impossible to regulate your Approach with adequate Propriety. Nor ought you to be less certain of the Number and Quality of their Troops.

It were also to be wished, that you could gather some information concerning the Strength of their Guards, and whether they are circumspect or negligent in their Duty. A previous Idea of such Particulars will be a considerable Advantage in your Favour, and contribute greatly to the probability of your Success.

DURING the several Campaigns which I have served under various Generals, I was frequently order'd to procure Intelligence concerning the Situation of the Enemy's Posts, without approaching them. I had always the good fortune to succeed. The method I took was as follows, which I flatter myself the Reader will confess to be infallible.

I SUP-

I SUPPOSE myself at *Soest*, in *Westphalia*, A. Plan III. and the Enemy posted at *Berwick*, B. two Leagues distant from me. In order to reconnoitre this Place without coming near it, I take a Map of the Country, and making *Soest* my Center, draw a Circle, including *Berwick* about half a League within the Circumference. I then take a Sheet of Paper and draw another Circle of the same Dimensions. I place *Soest* in the Center A. and all the Villages which I find in the Map within the Circle, I mark in my Plan according to their respective Distances and Bearings. These I trace first with my Pencil, that I may afterwards rectify the Mistakes which I may discover in the Map.

HAVING thus laid the foundation of my Plan, according to a Scale of two Leagues (that being the supposed Distance of *Berwick*) I visit the Burgomaster of *Soest*, or send for some of the most intelligent of the Inhabitants. I converse with them openly, and without reserve,
in

in order to excite them to give me such Information as I want.

BUT the better to conceal my Design, I begin my Enquiry with the Village of *Brockhausen*; if they tell me it is five Miles from *Soest*, I correct my Plan accordingly, in which it appeared to be two Leagues.

I THEN inform myself of every Particular on the Road to *Brockhausen*; such as Chapels, Houses, Castles, Villages, Woods, Plains, Bridges, &c. Supposing they say, that at a good half League from *Soest*, you pass the Village of *Hinderking*, I mark it accordingly. I then enquire whether there are no cross Roads, Morasses, Woods, &c. whether it be a strait Road, paved, or deep; in short, I endeavour to omit nothing that may in the least contribute towards giving me a perfect Knowledge of the Country; and all the Particulars I can possibly collect are carefully specified in my Plan, which, in course, must

must become infinitely more perfect than any printed Map can possibly be.

I continue my Enquiry concerning the Road from *Hinderking* to *Brockhausen*, advancing by degrees, and asking the same Questions relative to the several Villages marked D. D. D. By this means, I acquire a perfect Knowledge of the whole District, am enabled to judge how the Enemy are situated, and what Rout I must take to approach them with the greatest Secrecy.

A PLAN of this kind is not only of great Utility in forming secret Expeditions, but is indispensibly necessary for the commanding Officer of a Party. By the help of this, his private Instructions may be rendered quite explicit, and perfectly intelligible to those under his command; who, having a sketch of their Rout along with them, will in their Excursions, run no risk of being deceived or misled by ignorant or treacherous Guides. This
1 method

method of inquisition likewise enables me to judge, which of those whom I assembled, is best qualified to act as a Guide in case I should want one.

I SHALL not amuse the Reader with a detail of Stratagems practised by the Ancients, to surprise the Enemy's Fortresses. They are now so universally known and exploded, that he who should attempt to put them in execution would be thought little better than a Madman. I am therefore by no means of opinion with some modern Authors, who talk of introducing into a Town a sufficient number of Soldiers, in Waggon's laden with Straw. The thing is absolutely impracticable in time of War, as Carriages of all kinds are constantly examined with great Circumspection; particularly if there appears to be any considerable Number of them; not to mention the great Difficulty which the Men would have in extricating themselves from their embarrassed Situation.

THERE

THERE are other Writers on this Subject who have laid great stress on Escalades, advising us to make several feign'd Attacks at the same instant, in order to conceal the real one. These general Assaults are not within the province of a Partisan; for besides the necessity of his being an Engineer, to judge of the Strength and Weakness of a Fortification, there are a number of Utensils required for cutting down the Palisadoes, passing the Fosse, and escalading the Works, which are always above the reach of portable Ladders. Such Assaults also demand so considerable a number of Troops, as that being divided into separate Bodies, each shall of itself be able to form, or sustain an Attack, of which the detached Corps of a Partisan is utterly incapable.

THE Expedient which carries with it the greatest probability of Success, for a Partisan who commands only four hundred Foot, and who is assured that the Garrison consists of no more than two Hundred,

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Hundred, (for nothing of this kind must be attempted without double the number of the Enemy) is to make choice of bad Weather, such as high Winds, or thick Fogs in Winter, and in the Summer Season, violent Storms of Rain and Thunder. When after excessive Heat, the Air is suddenly agitated by a high Wind, you are then instantly to mount a part of your Infantry on covered Waggons, which you are to hold in constant readiness during the whole time that your Project is in agitation. Every Man of your Corps must be provided with a dog-skin Covering, to secure his Ammunition, so contrived as to be easily removed. The rest of your Infantry are to mount behind the Cavalry. You are to appoint a general Rendezvous about a League from the Place you intend to surprize. Here you are to halt ; and if the Weather seems to clear up, you must instantly retreat, referring the Affair to another Day. A ten-fold repetition of this *manceuvre* should not break your Resolution. If the Place is of

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Importance, your Success at last, will prove a sufficient Reward for your Trouble.

BUT if on the contrary, the Wind encreases and the Storm continues gathering, conduct your Approach in such a manner as to have the Wind on your Backs; for if it is in your Face, the Enemy's Sentries will perceive you at some Distance, besides your Cavalry will advance with Difficulty.

HAVING taken all the necessary Precautions, you are to increase your Pace in proportion as the Storm augments. During its greatest Violence, your Waggon and your Cavalry will proceed with great Celerity; and you will have no reason to be under the least Apprehension, as it is impossible for the Enemy to hear or see any thing of your March, for the Inclemency of the Weather will force their Sentries to turn their Backs to the Wind, or retire within their Boxes.

AT

AT about three hundred Paces from the Place, both the Dragoons and Foot must dismount and fix their Bayonets. The Hussars are to remain with the Waggons, which must be turned, ready to retreat. Your Infantry you will form in five Divisions, which are to act independently of each other.

You are now to begin your March, proceeding as expeditiously as possible, without breaking your Ranks. You pass boldly the Barriers and the Gates, seizing the Sentries and Guards as you go along, without firing a Shot, and with as little noise as you can. This is to be executed with all imaginable dispatch.

WHILST your first Division is thus employ'd, the others are to push forward into the Town. The second will make immediately for the main Guard; the third must secure the Governor or Commandant; the fourth, which should be the strongest, will fly to the Caserns or

Barracks, and take possession of the Arms ; the fifth must have orders to remain in the Street near the Gate, as a Corps de reserve.

EACH Division must be conducted by one of the Prisoners which were at the Gate. You will now send orders for the Huffars to advance full speed : they are to patrol in the Streets as far as the Infantry have proceeded.

As these Surprises cannot possibly take place but under favour of a Storm, which is seldom of long continuance, it is evident the whole must be well concerted, and executed with all imaginable dexterity and expedition.

It is very certain that the Rain will make it rather difficult for the Infantry to march with any degree of celerity, as in clayey Grounds their Feet will be apt to slip ; but they must do as well as they can.

can. Great Roads are generally pretty well covered with Stones or Gravel.

IF, in taking possession of the Gate, they happen in some part of the Place, to have caught the Alarm, you must divide your Troops into two Wings, and march them seperately up on to the Rampart, one to the Right and the other to the Left of the Gate. They will instantly seize the Cannon, turn them upon the Town, and then summon the Garrison to surrender.

IN case the Stroke should fail, and that you should be obliged to retire, your Disappointment can be attended with no very great Danger; for as the Garrison, by supposition, consists of no more than half your Number, they will suffer you to retreat without Molestation.

I AM not ignorant that there are many Commanders who would raise a thousand Objections to such Attempts, and that they will appear to be attended with too

many Difficulties to afford a prospect of Success. But I speak from Experience, by which I am authorised to insist on the validity of my Reasoning, and the efficacy of the Method I propose. I shall, nevertheless, quote only two Instances, wherein I myself was concern'd, to prove that violent Weather affords the most favourable Opportunity for Attempts of this nature.

BEING at the head of thirty Hussars, in order to escape a Storm that seem'd gathering in our Rear, I made the best of my way to a Town well fortified and strongly garrisoned. It blew a Hurrican. I passed the Barrier and the Gates, without being seen or heard by any one Sentry, though my Horses made no inconsiderable Noise. I even called to the first Guard as I passed ; yet passed unperceived. I then traversed the Town to gain the Inn, which happened to be in the opposite Suburbs, without meeting any living Soul in the Streets. Indeed the Sentry
at

at the last Barrier spoke to me, and we exchanged a few Words, but neither of us understood one Word of what the other said : yet it had not begun to rain ; but it blew violently.

I HAD another Proof of this kind in the Year 1757 on *Christmas* Eve, when in the *Hanoverian* Dominions, I passed with eighty light Horse, between two of the Enemy's Guards, without being perceived : yet I marched through the middle of a large Plain. The Night was extremely clear ; but the Wind was so violent, that the Sentries could not possibly turn their Faces towards it, and consequently never saw me. I gained the Rear of their Army, and carried off several of their Horses without molestation. Yet farther, the Night following in my return, I passed two different Posts of our own Army, the one guarded by a party of Hussars, and the other by a Regiment of Dragoons, and was seen only by a Sentry near the Center of the last, who did not

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dare to call to me, as I had already pass'd the Out-guard.

It is also advisable to take the advantage of bad Weather when you have a design to surprise by Escalade, such of the Enemy's Posts as are environed by a Wall, as Castles, Convents, Towns, &c. For this purpose, you are to advance during the Night, and to seize the moment of a severe Blast, which will force the Sentries to turn their Backs to the Wind. Apply without hesitation, your Ladders to the windward side of the Place, and doubt not of Success.

A THICK Fog will be no less favourable to your Design when you mean to surprise an entrench'd Post. When you come near the Trenches, order your Men to creep upon their Hands, to prevent their being discovered. These Surprises are attended with very little danger; whilst, on the contrary, whenever you make feigned Attacks, you are sure to
alarm

alarm the Enemy, and frequently pay dear for a successful Enterprize.

WHEN you have an intention to surprise the Enemy in a Village, Farm, Monastery, or other Post detach'd from the Army, you are to separate your Command into two distinct Bodies, each composed of Cavalry and Foot : one of which must make the attack in Front, and the other in the Rear. It will be necessary to be provided with a small number of Waggon's to carry off your wounded in case of a Repulse. The Commanders of each Party must take care to be very accurate in calculating the Time requisite for those that are to attack in the Rear, to march round ; and to regulate their Signals so that they may advance at the same instant. The dead of Night is the best Time for such Enterprizes ; unless the Post happens to be at such a distance from the Army, as to expect no Assistance : in that case, you have time enough till the break of Day.

The Detachment, which is intended for the rear Attack, must have no more Foot than can be mounted behind the Cavalry. They are to form at the distance of about a quarter of a Mile from the Post, a hundred Paces out of the Road.

THE Cavalry of the other Wing will also form at the same Distance, where the Waggon and the Drums are likewise to halt; the Dragoons are to move up about ten Minutes after the Infantry have advanced; who, guided by the Enemy's Fires, and crouching along, are to approach them as near as possible. If they perceive a Patrole, they must lie flat to the Ground. The Officers are to raise their Heads a little to see whether they are not directly in the way of the Patroles; in which case, they will creep backward or forward, so as to remain unperceived. One Officer must continue to observe the Patrole, and the instant they have passed, your Infantry must march up to the Post, and endeavour to clear the way for the Cavalry,

Cavalry, in case it should happen to be barricaded with Waggon's or otherwise. They are then to proceed instantly towards the Fire; but if there are several Lights, they are then to divide into so many distinct Parties, so as to surprise the Whole at the same time.

THE Cavalry in the Rear are to advance briskly, as soon as the Foot make their first discharge, leaving only a Serjeant and a File of Men to guard the Waggon's. Those who were detach'd to the opposite side of the Post, are also to advance at the same Signal, Trumpets sounding and Drums beating, with orders to attack such of the Enemy as may endeavour to save themselves by flight.

It is beyond all Doubt, that the Enemy, seeing all their Guards taken, your Infantry spread over every part of the Village, and hearing at the same time the different marches of Horse and Foot advancing on all sides of them; I say, it is
more

more than probable they will give up the Place, or at most endeavour to save themselves by a confused Retreat. It will then be no difficult matter for your Cavalry to stop the Fugitives ; but they must have very positive Orders, never, during the Night, to pursue above a Mile ; but not a Yard, if it should happen to be a close Country.

THE Place being taken, you are instantly to send off all the Booty and the Prisoners, guarded by your whole Infantry. The Wounded are to be put upon the Waggon, or on the Horses you may have taken. The Cavalry are to compose your Van and rear Guards, the latter of which must be much the strongest.

WHEN the Post which you intend to surprise is at the Distance of ten or twelve Leagues from yours, as the Enemy are less apprehensive, you will accomplish your Work with greater facility. In this case, your whole Infantry, with a Lieu-

tenant and twenty Dragoons, may take Post about half distance, under cover of some Wood or Farm, with orders to be constantly upon their Guard. The Commander will proceed with the rest of the Cavalry, taking along with him some Refreshment for himself and his People, if the Place should happen to be at too great Distance to be attempted the same Night. He must also have with him an intelligent Guide; but must not communicate his Design to him till he is a little advanced upon the Road. He will accompany his Declaration with Promises and Threats; assuring him that his Zeal and Fidelity shall be generously recompensed, but that if he should dare to mislead the Party, he should not only be punished with immediate Death, but the Village to which he belongs, burnt to Ashes.

You are soon to strike out of the great Road, ordering your Guide to conduct you in such a manner, as that you may
seem

seem designing to leave the Enemy's Post, **which** you intend to surprise, about a **League** to the Right or Left. If it is in **the** winter Season, there will be no necessity for making so large a Circuit, as you **then** run no great Risk of meeting People **in the** Fields, or cross Roads.

As soon as you appear to be in a Line **with** the Place, you are to march obliquely towards it, so as at a little Distance **from** the Gate, to strike into the Road **that** communicates with their Army; and **from** hence you are to make your **Affault**.

THE genius of this kind of War sometimes carries Temerity so far as even to attempt the Wing of an Army encamped on an open Plain; but such Exploits are too **daring** to be often imitated: the Danger **is** very great, and the Retreat of so small a Body of Troops, as that of a Partisan, **vastly** precarious, unless it is in an extream **dark** Night; and even then, that very
Darkness,

Darkness, which is your Security, may mislead you into a thousand Difficulties, and disperse your Party.

THE Case is quite different, when either Wing of their Camp touches upon a mountainous or woody Country that may cover your Retreat: in this Case, by means of a faithful Guide, gain'd by Money and fair Promises, you may march in the Night through the Woods, and secure your Approach under favour of the Hills, Inclosures, &c.

IN opening into the Plain, you must carefully observe whether there be not some Post in the front of the Wing you mean to attack; you are then to leave a Detachment of Foot in possession of the Pass, to secure your Retreat. A part of your Cavalry must be ordered to march round into the Rear of the advanced Post, and another Detachment, together with your Infantry, to form fronting one of its Flanks. This Disposition being made,

made, you are to give the Signal for a general Attack. The main Body of your Cavalry are to fall upon the Flank of the Line, and the rest of your Troops to assault the advanced Post at the same instant. The whole are to raise the most hideous Cries in their power, in order to alarm and terrify the Army.

As it is very certain that it will not be long before the Piquets of the Line are assembled, you are to seize and carry off all you come near, Officers, Soldiers, Horses, &c. and to make the best of your way with them to the Entrance of the Wood. The Cavalry are to proceed with the Prisoners and Booty, and the Infantry must form your rear Guard, till you have march'd clear of the Wood, when they are to advance into the Front. You will retreat as far as possible during the Night. You need be under no apprehension of a Pursuit, as the Enemy will dread being enfiladed.

THERE

THERE is no Moment so precious to a Partisan, nor which claims so much of his Attention, as that of a general Engagement. When all are attentive to the Firing heard on every side, the *manœuvres* of the approaching Army, and the decision of an Affair of the last Importance, on which the fate of the Whole, and of each Particular is depending ; it is then that he has it in his Power to display his Art and Capacity to the most Advantage, to strike the heaviest Blow possible, pillage their Head Quarters, carry off their Baggage, put their Guards to the Sword, set fire to their Camp, and in short, to spread such universal Terror as may greatly contribute to the Defeat of their Army.

BUT to assure Success in so great and glorious an Enterprize, there are certain Measures necessary to be taken. The three principal previous Considerations are these : the Situation of the Enemy's Camp, the Means of Approach, and the Hour of

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Battle.

Battle. If they are encamp'd in the middle of an open Plain, or upon such a commanding Eminence that you cannot advance without being perceived at some Distance, Prudence, in such a case, should restrain your Zeal, and deter you from attempting Impossibilities.

IT is also advisable for a Partisan to make himself particularly acquainted with every Pass, Post, Village, &c. that are in the front of the Army, especially if there be any Probability that the Enemy may come to occupy that Ground. Of what infinite Advantage may it not prove in the direction of some future Project, if he has taken care to provide himself with a Survey of the Country he is to invade? He may then, without the insufficient and dangerous Assistance of Spies and Deferters, by his own particular Knowledge alone, determine all the proper Measures for the execution of his Design, which should be regulated and conducted with impenetrable Secrecy.

As

As soon as he perceives, by the Motion of each Army, that they are upon the brink of Action, he will not neglect a Moment to acquaint the General with his Project: If it meets with Approbation, his Disposition, and the Time of his Departure, must be ordered according to the Commands which he shall receive.

As these Expeditions frequently require a very extensive Circuit, you must take care to have sufficient Time for the March. In the Year 1757, the Duke de *Richelieu* advanced his Army with an Intention to attack the Allies in the neighbourhood of *Zell*. I received Orders, the preceding Day, to gain the Rear of their Camp with a hundred light Horse, and after a Tour of twenty-two Leagues, arrived without the least Accident; but the Prudence of the Prince of *Brunswick* frustrated our whole Scheme, and left us nothing but the Mortification of admiring his Retreat. Nevertheless I had the good Fortune to stumble upon part of their

Baggage, from which I carried off twelve Waggon^s of Merchandize, and Seventy-five Horses.

AMONG the previous Measures necessary for your Undertaking, you will not forget to provide each Man with a Cockade resembling those of the Enemy. You will likewise give to twenty of each Detachment, Staves six Feet in Length, tipped with a piece of a Torch, enveloped with dry Straw or Hemp, so as instantly to take Fire.

Your whole Corps is supposed to march from the Field A. Plan IV. conducted by an intelligent Guide through covered and unfrequented Roads, intirely clear of the Enemy. Having reached the Place C. which I suppose to be nearly in a Line with the Field of Battle, your Foot are to form an Ambuscade; but not in the Way, or within the Observation, of the Country People. This becomes your Center of Communication with the Army, the
Rendez-

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Rendezvous of your Booty, and a Cover to the Retreat of your Cavalry, which you will now form into as many Detachments as you intend separate Attacks: we will suppose Six, each consisting of a hundred Men. They are, with all imaginable Secrecy, and by different Routs, to repair each to their respective Posts, E. D. F. G. H. I. In an Affair of this Nature, it would be Madness to spare either Pains or Expence to procure knowing and faithful Guides. Each Detachment must conceal itself about half a League from its Object of Attack, B. K. K K K.

THE firing of the Musketry is the Signal for their general Irruption: and now the Activity, Courage, and Resolution, both of Officers and private Men, will be put to the Proof. The second Detachment D. will glide imperceptibly between the Villages, and, with the Impetuosity of Lightning, fall on the Camp B. Whilst Fourscore of the Hundred

shall put all they meet to the Sword, the remaining Twenty are to light their Torches at the Enemy's Fires, and communicate the Flames to the Straw in their Tents. As they must expect to have the Enemy very soon at their Heels, they are not, on any Account, to be suffered to plunder; but must content themselves with the Glory of having spread an Alarm, that will probably have such an Effect on the Enemy as to be a Means of gaining the Victory.

AT the same instant of Time, the other Parties E. F. G. H. are, with equal Violence, to attack the Villages K. K. K. K. which are in their Front, where they are to perform the same *manœuvre* as the first; with this Difference only, that they may be allowed to pillage a little in haste among the Baggage of the Generals, with which these Villages are generally well stor'd, seizing their best Horses, hamstringing the rest, and setting Fire to such Houses or Barns as contain any thing belonging to the Enemy.

EACH

EACH of these Parties will advance two or three Videttes in the Front of the Village to observe the Motions of the Enemy's Troops, as they will not fail to march to the Relief of their Quarters. As soon as they are perceived to advance, you are immediately to retreat by such Routs as the Commander shall have previously fixed, and which we suppose to be represented by the dotted Lines in the Plan. The sixth Detachment H. concealed near the Road to the Camp, must remain there with Orders to fall upon those that may be endeavouring to save themselves by Flight.

THE Danger in such Expeditions is much less than is generally apprehended. During the critical Instant of a Battle, every Man that is able to bear Arms is supposed to be in the Line; therefore you will find in the Camp, little more than Suttlers, Bat-men and Invalids, except a few Sentries and inconsiderable

H 4

Guards,

Guards, which you will easily disperse as you advance.

THE Commander of each Detachment must be every instant upon the Watch. The Moment he perceives any Body of Troops advancing towards him, he must immediately regain the Pass leading into the Wood. I believe it would be an easy Matter for every Partisan to regulate his Operations, by the Plan which I have laid down, conformable to his Strength and the Situation of the Camp which he intends to attack. His chief Care must be to dispose his Cavalry in such a Manner in the several Ambuscades, as that they may surprise the Camp and the Quarters of the General Officers, at the same instant of Time.

EACH Party of Cavalry having rejoined their respective Detachment of Foot, are there to wait the Event of the Day ; that if Victory declares in Favour of their Army, they

they may immediately return towards the Field of Battle, and post themselves so as most effectually to harraß the Enemy in their Retreat. The Dismay and Confusion after the Loss of a Battle is so universal, that you will meet with little or no Resistance from a flying Enemy.

SUPPOSE you have a Design to surprise and carry off some Person of Distinction, whose Quarters are at a considerable Distance in the Rear of the Army; you are, for this Purpose, to take no more than Twelve light Horse; but they must be pick'd Men, of known Abilities, Courage, and Integrity. Each of these must be provided with a double Surtout, resembling, as near as possible, two different Regiments of the Enemy; that, being discovered in one Disguise, they may retire a Moment and then assume another, which must infallibly confound the Reports of the Peasants. You are never, on any Account, to halt, but in some Wood, Copse, or Cover, at a Distance from any Road.

Road. Your Quarter-master must take care to procure Forage and Subsistence from a neighbouring Village, and to pay very punctually for every thing he receives, till you shall have an Opportunity to execute your Design.

C H A P. XI.

Of Ambuscades.

AN Ambuscade is a body of Men concealed in a Wood, or otherwise, with an Intention to surprize the Enemy. There are no Stratagems of War which afford a Partisan better Opportunities of displaying his Genius and Resolution. There is indeed no great Difficulty in forming an Ambuscade in a Country embarrassed with Thickets, Buildings, or Inclosures; but in an open champaign Situation, it requires great Contrivance and a fruitful Imagination. Both the one and the other must

must be regulated by your Intelligence of the Designs of the Enemy.

WHEN a Partisan has received credible Information of the March of some Party of the Enemy, whether a Convoy of Artillery, Baggage, Subsistence, Recruits, Horses, &c, or an Escort of some General Officer, about to join his Army, or reconnoitre the Country ; he will endeavour to obtain certain Intelligence of their Rout, the Situation of the Places through which they are to pass, and the Post to which they direct their March. But the better to conceal his Intention, he will seem most particular in his Enquiries concerning the opposite Road, as we have already said in the Chapter on *Surprises*.

HAVING previously concerted his Measures, he will march his Party about Sunset, and, if possible, take some different Road from that which he intends to pursue.

If

10 If the Place where he means to form his Ambuscade be at no great Distance, he may strike into the Road about mid-way, where he will conceal half of his Infantry, to secure his Retreat. But if he has a long March before him, which will require two whole Nights, he will then zig-zag from one Wood to another. He must not forget to provide sufficient Refreshment for the Day, during which he must lie concealed. Three Rations of Oats for each Horse will be as much as he will have occasion for.

THE first Night, he will endeavour to gain the Wood where he intends to spend the intermediate Day. He will fix upon some Spot near a Rivulet, and here he will station a Part of his Infantry, unless there should happen to be a River between this Wood and the Enemy; for, in that Case, he will march his Infantry thither, and conceal them in some Thicket near its Banks.

If there is no Bridge or Ford, he will pass with his Cavalry only, which I suppose to have been frequently exercised in Swimming; but if the Place is fordable, half of the Infantry are to mount behind the Horsemen. If it should so happen, that you have a Bridge to pass near a Village, you are there to post an Officer with a Party of Foot, leaving him strict Orders to suffer no Person whatsoever, whether Soldier or Peasant, to quit the Place: and, for still greater Security, it may not be amiss, to leave with him a small Detachment of Cavalry, which may be sent in pursuit of any one that might possibly escape before your Return.

If, during your Absence, this Bridge should be attacked, he must defend it to the last Extremity, lest your Retreat should be entirely cut off. There are many Instances of this Sort. Count *Esterhazy*, being detached with Three hundred light Horse, to raise Contributions in the neighbourhood of *Strasburg*,
left

left a Lieutenant and thirty Men to guard the Bridge at *Wolfsheim*. I am ignorant of the Motive which excited the Officer to abandon his Post. I was led thither by mere Chance at the Head of ten Hunters, to the great good Fortune of the Detachment: for I was scarce arrived when I perceived three considerable Parties of *French* Hussars, who were advancing to take Possession of this Post. I had only just time, with my little Troop, to throw myself into a Mill which seemed to command the Bridge. I plied them with so incessant a Fire, through the Holes in the Wall, that I had the good fortune to dispute the Pass till *Esterhazy's* Detachment hearing the Fire, galloped near a Mile, surprised the Enemy in the Rear, and took Four-score of their Horses and a great Number of Prisoners. But to return.

THE necessary Precautions being taken for the Security of the Bridge, the Commander of the Expedition will endeavour

The PARTISAN. III

to arrive at the Place where he intends to form his Ambuscade, two Hours before the Enemy are expected to pass. He will immediately explore the Situation of the Place with all imaginable Diligence. He will take care to form his Ambuscade on that side of the Pass from whence he intends to retreat ; otherwise, if he should happen to be discovered by their advanced Guard, he would be obliged to file off in Sight of their main Body, who, perceiving his Weakness, would infallibly destroy him.

Your Infantry A. (Plan V.) should be posted at least Six hundred Paces in the Rear of your Cavalry B. which in case of a Repulse, must retire to the Infantry A. and both must retreat to the Bridge, or to the Detachment of Foot posted on the Road.

If your Ambuscade be in a Wood, you will order one of your most intelligent non-commission'd Officers to climb up

into a high Tree, C. whence he may observe the March of the Enemy. The Particulars of which he is to give you Notice, are three, *viz.* The first Appearance of their advanced Guard, the Approach of their main Body, and the Instant when they are exactly opposite to your Ambuscade B. For this Purpose, the Commander will instruct him in what manner he is to communicate his Observations without speaking. It may be done by means of a Chord D. of a brown Colour, (that being least perceptible) which must be disposed as may be seen in the Plan, to prevent its Communication being impeded by the Branches. The non-commissioned Officer in the Tree must hold one End in his Hand and the Commander B. the other.

As soon as the advanced Guard of the Enemy appears, the Observer pulls the Chord; upon which the Commander orders his People to mount their Horses, and to continue profoundly Silent. If
their

their main Body should follow close at the Heels of their Van-guard (a Deception which is sometimes practised) which however may be easily discovered, by the unusual Strength of the advanced Party, and its not being followed by Troops at a Distance; if, I say, this should be the Case, he will pull the Cord a second Time as soon as their Front shall have got within a few Paces of the Ambuscade; and a third Time when they are exactly opposite. At this Signal, you are to fall forth, and, with all imaginable Impetuosity, fall upon the Flank of their Center, in the manner we shall describe.

If their Van-guard E. consist only of the usual Number, you must let it pass. When the chief Escort F. approaches, the Observer will give his second Pull, and the Third, the instant the Front comes opposite to the Point B. You will then rush out towards the Front of the Enemy, by the Opening marked with a double Line of Dots, so that you may

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not

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not be discovered by those upon the Flank of their Center. You are to attack them Sword in hand, making the most hideous Noise in your Power, to hinder their Men from hearing the Commands of their Officers. You are to endeavour to disarm and to take as many as you can, being careful however not to push the Pursuit too far, unless you are well assured that they are at too great a Distance from their Army to expect Relief, and that there are no other of their Parties in the Country, who would not fail to catch the Alarm, and harraßs you in your Retreat.

In all secret Expeditions, every possible Precaution must be taken to prevent Discovery or Treachery. If you are perceived by the advanced Guard of the Enemy, you are instantly to abandon your Enterprize and retire. In case your Guide, or any of your own People should desert, if you find it impossible to lay hold of them, it would be your best way
to

to think immediately of a Retreat, or, at least, to change your Project. But to prevent this Misfortune as much as possible, your Officers are to call the Roll very frequently.

You are never to form an Ambuscade with a Design to cut off the Enemy's Retreat; for that will reduce them to Despair, and inspire them with Resolution to rally: unless it should so happen that you have a moral Certainty of taking their whole Party Prisoners, either from their inconsiderable Number, or from the nature of the Defile, which may possibly be so narrow as not to suffer them to form.

It is no less dangerous than difficult to form several Ambuscades at the same time. The more there are, the greater Probability there is of your being discovered, and the less you will be able to unite in your Retreat; nevertheless, there is an Exception, when your Intention is

to surprize a foraging Party. In that case, it will be necessary to form several Ambuscades, disposed in such a manner as that the Sentries may see from one to the other. That to which the Foragers happen to come the nearest, must execute the Design, and instantly upon their Ir-ruption, the others are to put themselves in a Position to cover their Retreat.

I WOULD establish as a Maxim, that in all Ambuscades no Sentinel should be below the Degree of a non-commissioned Officer. If you are concealed behind a Hill, or in the hollow part of an open Down, your Sentries are to lie flat upon the Ground, with their Feet towards the Ambuscade, their Bodies covered with a brown, or green Cloak, according to the Colour of the Turf; and their Heads, which must be a little raised, wrapt in a Handkerchief of the same Hue. The precise Number of the Sentries cannot be determined, but from the Circumstances and Situation of the Place. They must be
so

so numerous as to command the intire Circuit, are to secure every Person who may unknowingly approach them, and must be properly instructed to communicate their Observations by Signs.

If you are to form your Ambuscade in the open Fields, where there are neither Vines nor Hedges, you are to conceal yourselves in the Corn, provided it is of a sufficient Height; but when that happens not to be the Case, you must have recourse to Labour. For this Purpose, a Subaltern with a working Party and proper Tools, must march in the Rear of your Cavalry. The Commander will indicate the Length and Breadth of the Ground they are to throw up, A. Plan VI. They will begin at the Point B. and raise a kind of Parapet in the Front and on the Flanks C. sloping insensibly outwards, which is to be covered with the Sods of green Corn taken from the Surface of the Spot where they sink the Covert-way. It must be six Feet from the Bottom;

but if the Corn should be grown to the Height of two or three Feet, it is evident the Glacis will require less raising. This Work will demand no great Labour, as the Ground which was lately ploughed, will easily yield to the Spade. These occasional Pioneers, when they have finished the Labour, will rejoin the Party of Infantry which we suppose to have been posted on the Road.

THE place of Ambuscade being thus prepared, at the Distance of a hundred Paces from that by which the Enemy are expected to pass, your Party will lead their Horses one after another, that they may not enlarge the Entrance. They will range themselves on Foot, each holding his Bridle in his Hand, loose upon the Horse's Neck. The Officers are to be constantly employed in visiting their Troops, in order to keep them alert; and you are to take care that every trace of their Entrance be entirely effaced.

IT

It is also an easy matter to form an Ambuscade in a hollow Way, which obliquely cuts the Road along which the Enemy are to pass; as for instance, that marked K. Plan V. There are sometimes Cavities occasioned by a Rivulet, which are very proper for an Ambuscade G. Plan V. when its Banks are of a sufficient Height, or bordered with Shrubs, and that it runs parallel to the Road, without approaching it too near.

As these Cavities are seldom very capacious, it will be necessary to make several Outlets, that you may be able to attack with your whole Force at the same Instant. I have supposed four H. H. H. H. through which your Cavalry are to fall out. It will be necessary to stop the Water somewhere nearer its Source, and to give it another Direction I. that your Horses standing dry, may make less Noise with their Feet. The Troops are to be divided into four Squadrons, and disposed in such a manner as to be ready

to break forth at the first Signal, and fall upon the Flanks of the Enemy. In this kind of Ambuscade, the Commander should be his own Sentry, taking care to place himself so as to observe all that passes, without being seen.

AN Ambuscade may, with great Ease, be formed in a Village, abandoned by its Inhabitants, either in the Gardens, Orchards, Barns, or Graneries G. H. Plan VI. Every Gate or Door towards the Enemy must be firmly barricaded, and a Way made in the Rear to wheel round to the Road, in the manner indicated by the dotted Lines. It is a general Maxim in all Ambuscades, that you are to make your Attack in an oblique Direction, upon the Enemy's Flank, from the Rear.

IN the different Ambuscades which I have mentioned, the Foot are to be no otherwise employ'd, than to secure the Retreat of the Cavalry ; but they will have their Turn when a Party is detach'd
with

with a design to allure the Enemy into a Snare. Woods or Villages are improper for this Purpose. If the Enemy acts with the least Circumspection, they will never be tempted to push their Pursuit to the Verge of a Wood or the Entrance of a Village. The best Places for these Ambuscades of Infantry, are open Commons covered with Heath or Fern, or rising in little Hillocks; hollow Roads, standing Corn, or Ditches. But it will be in vain to attempt any thing of this kind on the Road leading to your Army, as they will in that Case be particularly cautious in their Pursuit.

In these Ambuscades of Foot, your Men are to lie flat upon their Faces, and, to prevent their being seen, must cover their Clothes with Dust, that they may, as nearly as possible, resemble the Colour of the Ground; but that they may not be liable to be trampled on by the Enemy's Cavalry, it will be prudent to secure the Flank I. with a kind of Barrier K.

Plan

Plan VI. The Posts are to be five or six Feet out of the Ground, and at the Distance of ten Feet from each other, join'd by cross Poles, about five Feet above the Surface of the Earth. These Materials may be provided from some neighbouring Wood.

You are to give strict Orders that your Men be very attentive to their commanding Officer, who will not give them the word Fire, till the Enemy have extended their Flank the whole Length of his Front. The Firing of the Foot is the Signal for your Cavalry to attack that of the Enemy, which we may now reasonably suppose to be a little disconcerted by a general Discharge from the Ambuscade.

WHEN you intend to form an Ambuscade in the Ditch of a great Road, you should fix upon the deepest Part of it adjoining, if possible, to a Corn Field. Your People are to sit, kneel, or stoop, as the Place may require. If you have
sufficient

sufficient Time for the Purpose, it may not be amiss to cut down a number of Shrubs or Bushes, and plant them along the side of the Road, so as to conceal your Troops. This artificial Thicket should be extended beyond your Ambuscade, and the Boughs, towards the Extremity, planted at some Distance from each other, that the Enemy may be accustomed to pass them without Suspicion. If the Corn should not grow near enough the Ditch, it will be necessary to transport a number of Sods and to plant them in the manner specified above, where I mentioned the Ambuscade of Cavalry. If this should not be sufficient, you may strew some of the Corn as if it had been laid flat by the Wind or Hail.

I REMEMBER to have seen this Stratagem executed with Success in *Alsace*, under the Command of Captain de *Palast*, one of the most famous Partisans of his Time. He ordered me to conceal myself, with fifty Men, in the manner above described,

described, and advanced his Cavalry along the great Road leading to *Strasbourg*. They were no sooner perceived, than Four hundred *Bavarian* Dragoons approached to attack them. Our Troops retreated, and the Enemy, as if already sure of their Booty, pursued with great Eagerness. I suffered their Front to pass, and then fired upon their Centre with so much Success, that I brought Seventeen of them to the Ground, killed and wounded. Our Cavalry then faced about, and made so vigorous an Attack, that they must have been totally routed, if they had not been sustained by a strong Detachment of Horse and Foot, which immediately sallied out of *Strasbourg* to their Relief: nevertheless we carried off Fifty of their Horses.

THE Commander of a Party sent out to surprise the Enemy, having disposed his Infantry in Ambuscade, should march his Cavalry at break of Day. A non-commissioned Officer and six private Men must
compose

compose his advanced Guard ; which is always to keep in Sight of the Commander. The moment he perceives the Enemy, he must retreat slowly, but without seeming to fly, unless he is closely pursued. In that Case, the Van becoming his Rear Guard, must pop at them now and then, in order to provoke them to continue the Pursuit.

If the Enemy should halt, and seem inclined to follow you no farther, order one of your Men to drop his Hat, and another to stop with him as if to assist his Comrade in taking it up. The rest of the rear Guard are to continue their March to the Distance of about a hundred Paces, where they are to halt. One of the two will keep his Eye upon the Enemy whilst the other is employ'd in taking up the Hat. If, upon this, they should again advance, you are to face about and return to the Assistance of the two Soldiers, who are immediately to mount their Horses, and rejoin the Corps. This
 fort

sort of Delay sometimes draws a Party insensibly forward, beyond the Limits which Prudence, and the Diffidence of War had prescribed. If there happens to be a Village between your Ambuscade and the Enemy, your Cavalry are not to exceed the Village in their Excursion, as it will be impossible to induce the Enemy to pass it in their Pursuit, if they are not mere Novices in their Profession. But instead of advancing further, your light Horse are to enter the Village, and demand Refreshment for Fifty Men, supposing your Troop to consist of a Hundred. You are then to dispatch three or four Peasants to the neighbouring Villages, next the Enemy, with orders to their respective Bailiffs, or Constables, to attend you without delay, in order to regulate the Delivery of Waggon and Forrage, or under some other Pretence. These Peasants will not fail to give the Enemy Information of what they have heard and seen, in consequence of which it is more than probable they will attempt
to

to surprise you with a superior Force. They will make use of Cavalry upon this Occasion, as the March of Infantry would not be sufficiently expeditious.

THE instant these Peasants are departed, you are to take great care that no Person whatever be suffered to leave the Village. You are to send frequent Patroles along the Road by which you intend to retreat, that you may be in no danger of having your Communication with the Ambuscade cut off; and that you may retire as soon as the Enemy shall enter the Village; the Men are to continue with their Bridles in their Hands, ready to mount at a Moment's warning.

If a Partisan has no Infantry under his Command, he may still form an Ambuscade in the following manner: It must be as near the Enemy as possible. During the Night he will send out two or three Waggons covered with white Canvas, that they may be perceived at a Distance.

Special

Special Care must be taken that their Harness be in good Condition. Each Waggon must be drawn by four Horses, and driven by two Soldiers, properly disguised, whose Arms are committed to the Care of their four Comrades concealed within the Waggon. These will be sufficient to repulse any Patrole they may meet.

THE Waggon are to be driven along the Road parallel to the Enemy's Front, at a little distance from their Post. They will so regulate their March as to be about half a League from the Ambuscade at the break of Day, and within sight of the Enemy. Here they will halt, whilst one of the Men takes a View from the Top of a Tree, or from some Eminence near the Road. As soon as he perceives the Enemy's Patrole, they are to continue their March. If they should not seem inclined to follow, one of the Waggon must stop, pretending to be, on some account,

account, embarrassed ; this will infallibly draw them into your Ambuscade.

AMONG the many Opportunities for Ambuscades which the different Marches of the Enemy afford, there are none more favourable than the Retreat of an Army. When a Partisan has the good Fortune to be apprized of this intended retrograde Motion, by the diligence of his Spies, the Evening before the March, he will immediately quit his Post with his whole Force, taking a Rout as in that marked in Plan IV. He will leave his Infantry concealed about half way. His Cavalry are to make all possible Dispatch to gain the Rear of the Enemy, and to form an Ambuscade upon the Road along which they are to pass, at the Distance of two or three Leagues from their Camp.

To be better assured of his Retreat, he will station two or three separate Detachments, between himself and his Infantry, at a good Distance from each

K

other.

other. The rest are to line the Road in several parallel Lines, three or four hundred Paces in the Rear of each other, but so concealed as not to be seen by any who pass by them.

THE first Line are to lay hold of the Suttlers, and other Attendants of an Army, which are generally the forrunners of a Retreat. As soon as they have seized any of their Waggon or Mules, the first Detachment will pass them forward to the Second, and so on till they have reached the Infantry. You may safely employ yourself in this manner during one quarter of an Hour, in which time the Alarm will probably have reached the Army: it will then be prudent to retire.

C H A P. XII.

Of RETREATING.

BY the Word RETREAT we mean, in general, every retrograde Motion of an Army, or Body of Troops. That which is made in Sight of a superior Enemy, will be the Subject of this Chapter: it is justly esteem'd the *ne plus ultra* of the Art military. As it is necessarily attended with infinite Danger and Difficulty, there is no *manœuvre* that will so infallibly indicate the Courage and Ability of the commanding Officer. All Historians are agreed in this Point: their Panegyric is never more profusely lavish'd, than on those Heroes of Antiquity who have rendered themselves famous by brilliant Retreats.

As the Subject is important, it is also extremely difficult to investigate with adequate Perspicuity, on account of its in-

finite variety of Circumstances, each of which would require a separate Detail. The Brevity of my Plan will permit me only to take notice of the most essential : I shall nevertheless endeavour to explain myself in such a manner, that my general Directions may, with facility, be applied to most particular Cases that will happen.

THE Success of a Retreat depends principally on a perfect Knowledge of the Country through which you have to march, and a proper Disposition of your Troops. By the first, you are enabled to apply every Advantage of Ground or Situation ; and by the second, to sustain the Shock of an impetuous Enemy : both deserve the greatest Attention.

EVERY Officer who is intrusted with the Command of a Detachment, should carefully reconnoitre every Step he takes ; observe, with the utmost Attention, every passible Road, leading from one Place to another ;

another; every Wood, Thicket, Ditch, or Hollow, proper for an Ambuscade of Horse or Foot; the Courses of Rivers, Bridges, Fords, Villages; and, in short, every Particular that may serve to make him perfectly acquainted with the Dangers and Advantages which he leaves behind. It will be very easy to acquire a competent Knowledge of these Matters by the Method prescribed in the tenth Chapter of this Work, for obtaining a Plan of a Country without having been upon the Spot. By the help of such a Plan, he will be able to regulate his Retreat with great ease, and to use every possible Means, as well for the security of his Troops, as to surprise the Enemy.

THE Arrangement or Disposition of your Troops will entirely depend on the Number and Quality both of your own and those of the Enemy: for it will vary accordingly as they happen to consist of Cavalry or Infantry, are compact or dis-

united ; we shall descend to the Particulars of each.

A SAFE Retreat, after an unsuccessful Battle, is a thing absolutely impracticable, if it was not concerted before the Engagement, and that you are obliged to fly through Roads unknown. If indeed you have the good fortune to be sheltered by the Night or a thick Fog, you may then escape without much Difficulty, as they will not dare to pursue you far for fear of being surpris'd : I shall therefore confine myself to a Retreat in the Face of an Enemy in the Day-time.

FIRST, it is requisite that you should be in no doubt as to the Enemy's Force ; for it would be highly shameful to be so far the Dupe of a false Alarm as to retreat before an inferior Body of Troops : you must therefore be convinced of their Superiority, and be very certain whether they be Horse or Foot.

IF

If you are pursued by a strong Detachment of Cavalry, in conjunction with a Party of Infantry more numerous than your own, you must endeavour to render those of the Enemy useless. With this Intent your Foot must take possession of the first Pass, where they will flank the Road in such a manner as to support your Cavalry, as I have directed in the Chapter on Ambuscades.

To conceal the Departure of your Foot, you will order your Cavalry to advance as if with an intention to attack the Enemy A. Plan VII. You will then form them into two Divisions B. C. each making two Lines, the second double the first, and disposed as in the Plan.

THE Division C. will retreat first to the Distance of about Two hundred Paces, where it will face about, and separate into two Wings, leaving an Interval for the Division B. to pass between; which Division must be covered by a rear Guard,

who are to march fifty Paces in the Rear in small Squadrons ; they are to endeavour to retard the Enemy by frequently firing upon them, till they have joined the Division C. This Division must also immediately detach the same kind of rear Guard to amuse the Enemy till the Division B. has had time to gain its distance of Two hundred Paces in the Rear, and has likewise formed into two Wings, with an Interval in the Centre for the Division C. to pass in its turn. You will continue retreating in this Manner till you have drawn the Enemy into the Ambuscade of your Infantry. When you are pursued by Cavalry only, your Foot, which are marked with the dotted Rectangles in the Plan, are to retire at the same time with the rest ; unless from the nature of the Country, you have Reason to fear that your Retreat will be cut off : in that case, you will instantly detach half of the Infantry to form an Ambuscade in the Place above-mentioned. The Remainder are to draw up in the
Center

Center of the second Line of each Division. If the Enemy should approach too near the first, it must be ordered to rein back, and dividing in the Center, form upon the Flanks of the second. Thus the Enemy will be exposed to the Platoon Fire of your Infantry. At the same time you may detach small Parties of your Dragoons to increase their Confusion. The Division which retreats will take more or less Ground in the Rear in proportion as you are hard pressed, or otherwise. That which covers the Retreat will pass through the Interval in the same manner, continuing this alternate *mæuvre* till the Enemy shall desist from their Pursuit.

To accelerate the Retreat of Infantry, some Writers advise us to transport them on Waggon; but when the Enemy is at our Heels, it would be making a bad use of our Time, to employ it in looking out for Waggon and putting the Horses to them. These Moments are too precious
to

to be trifled away. Besides, it is more than probable, that some of these Vehicles, as they must be collected in a hurry and without examination, are not in proper travelling Order; in consequence of which, some of them must soon break down, and thus entirely stop the Remainder of the file of Waggon, and also all the Cavalry in the Rear if it happens in a narrow Road. These Considerations, I should imagine sufficient to deter any one from endeavouring to accelerate their Retreat by means which, in fact, will more probably retard it.

THE case indeed were different, if you knew the Enemy to be yet at a considerable Distance: you would then have time enough when a Waggon broke down, to lift it out of the Road, and to mount the Men that were on it, upon the Horses, two upon each, or to distribute them on the other Waggon. If several should fail, the Men are to make the best of their way on foot till they are tired,

tired, and then to be relieved by an equal Number from the remaining Carriages. By thus relieving each other alternately, you may possibly be able, notwithstanding your Disaster, to secure your whole Party.

If you happen to have a Wood in your Rear, it were dangerous to enter it, in case you are closely pursued, especially if the Enemy knows your Strength. You had better skirt the Wood, as by the dotted Rout G Plan VII. lest you should be intercepted on the opposite Side. But if you are inevitably forced to pass through, the Division C must march first, and as soon as they have gained the other Side, wheel outward and form into Wings fronting the Flanks of the Wood. The Division B. will remain at the Entrance till the Division C. are sufficiently advanced. Then the Cavalry B. are to pursue their Retreat, covered by the Infantry till they have cleared the Wood, when your Troops will again resume their former Disposition.

IN

IN passing any Defile or Bridge, you will repeat the same *manœuvre*, with this difference only, that your first Division having passed, will front the Enemy, and the Infantry are to range themselves along each side of the River.

IF you are to retreat through a mountainous Country, the first Division are to guard the Heights as they go along till the Whole have passed.

A BODY of Cavalry, without Foot, should retreat in three Lines, Two hundred Paces distant from each other. The two last would do well to extend their Front that they may appear more numerous. They must form on each side of the Road, facing the Enemy. When the first Line is attacked the Second must support it, and the Third must wait till the First retreats, when it is likewise to sustain the Second, and so on alternately.

IF

The PARTISAN. 141

IF the Enemy should desist from their Pursuit, you will then resume your usual order of March, taking Care however to keep a strong rear Guard. Your advanced Guard may be in Proportion weaker.

A SMALL Detachment of Cavalry, such as is generally sent out to reconnoitre the Enemy, to bring Intelligence of their March, or to carry off some Officer of Distinction, as it is not sufficiently numerous to retreat in the regular manner above directed ; such a Detachment, I say, has no means of Safety but in Flight, or a Resolution to pierce through the Ranks of the Enemy, The latter is its only Resource when it happens to be unfortunately surrounded on every Side ; but the former is attended with less Danger, if it can possibly be effected.

IF an Officer is well assured of the Fidelity of his Troops, on finding himself ready to fall into the Hands of his Enemy,
there

there is yet one method of Escape, which he may attempt, and which I have known to succeed. He will range his Men two and two together, with orders to make for the first Opening or Cover they shall perceive, by different Ways. It is evident that two Horse-men by various Turnings and Windings, will stand a better Chance to get clear than a Body of Eighteen or Twenty, whose Evolutions will be much slower and perplexed.

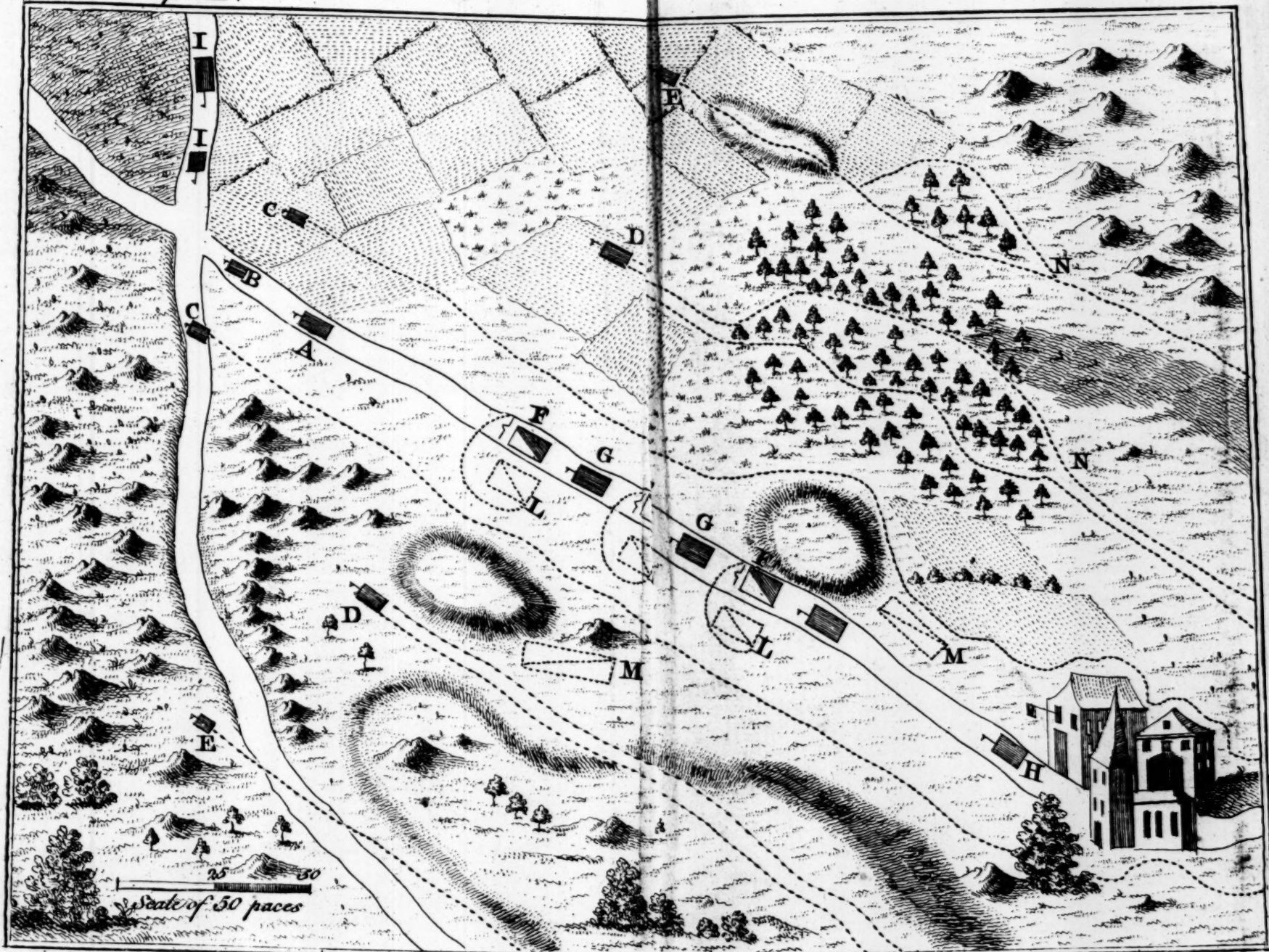
I MYSELF escaped in this manner in *Italy*. The *Spaniards* having Intelligence that I with my Party had got into the Rear of their Army, took such Measures as to cut off our Retreat. I ordered my Troop to disperse, taking with me only two Hussars. The Enemy pursued me closely, and I thought myself within a Hair's-breath of being taken a thousand Times. Yet I found Means to escape across a Morass, and arrived safe at my Post, where, three Days after, my whole Party were assembled without
I having

having lost a single Man. This Instance may be sufficient to shew, that we are never to despair, be our Situation ever so seemingly Desperate ; and that, in a case of extream Necessity, we are not to be terrified at the Passage of a River or Morass.

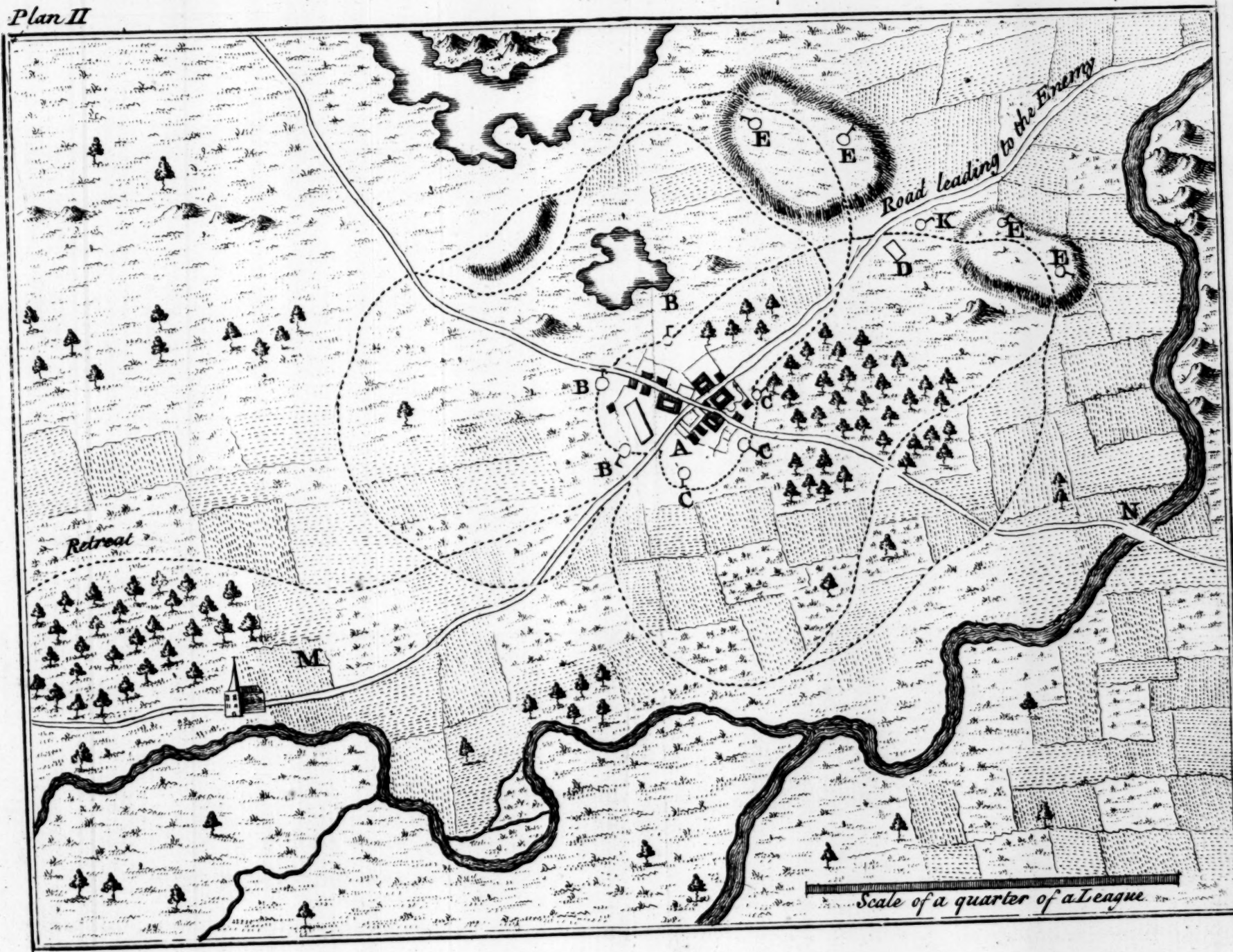
IN a forced Retreat, we are excited by Prudence to sacrifice many Considerations for the sake of Life and Liberty. We are therefore, without Hesitation, to part with every thing that may retard our March : Baggage, Booty, Prisoners, &c. must be left, that we may accomplish our Retreat with greater Care and Safety,

F I N I S.

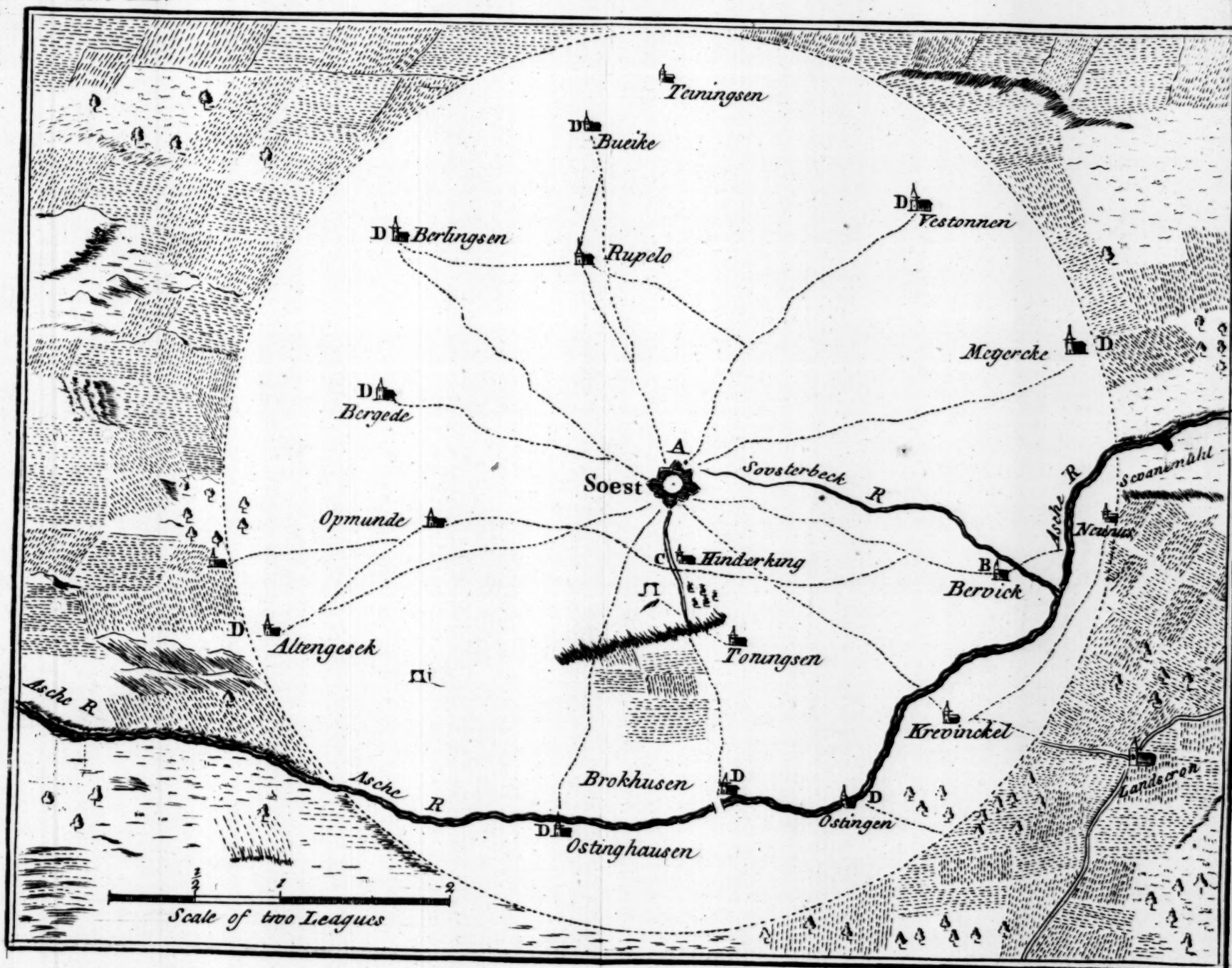
Plan I. Chap. VII.



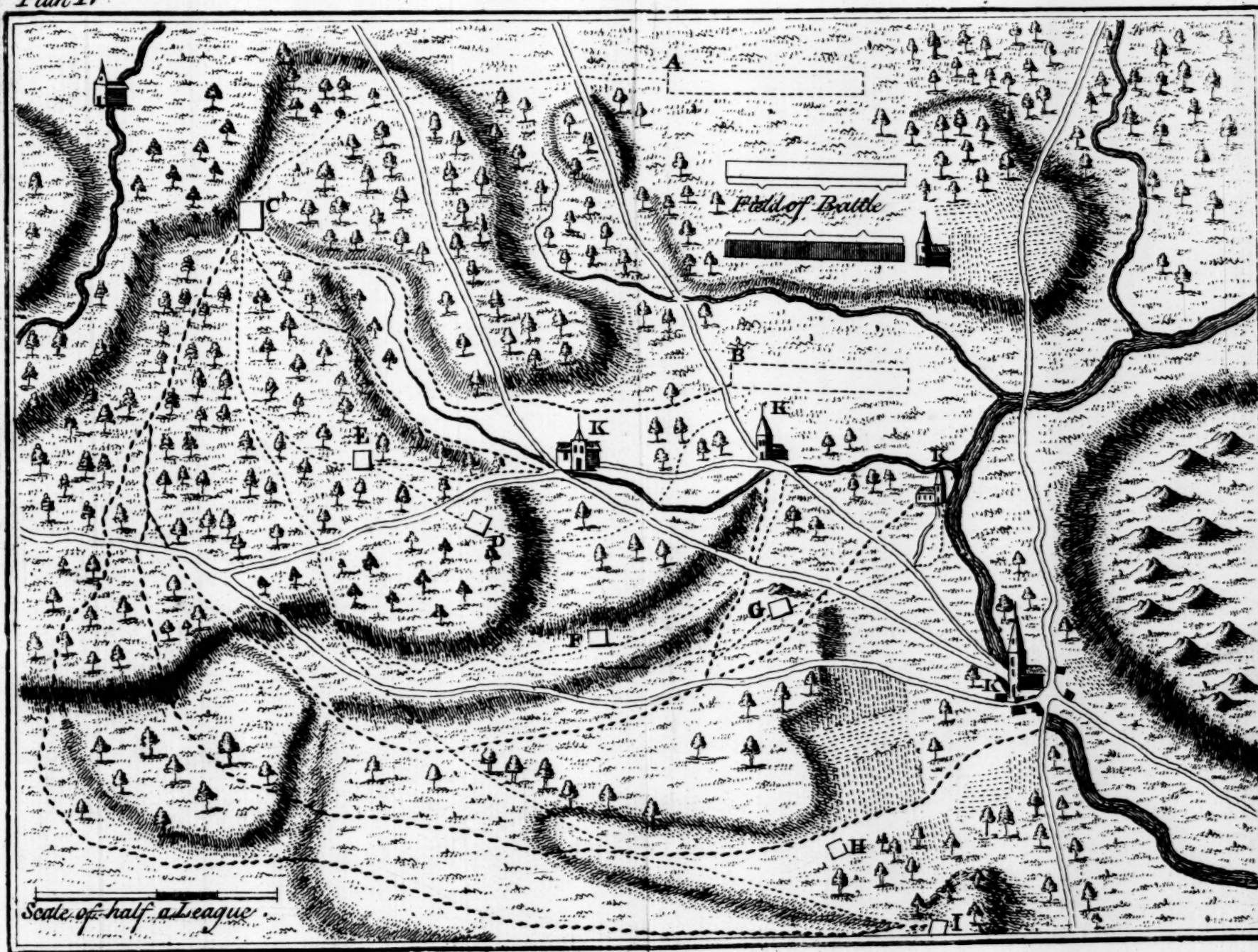
Plan II



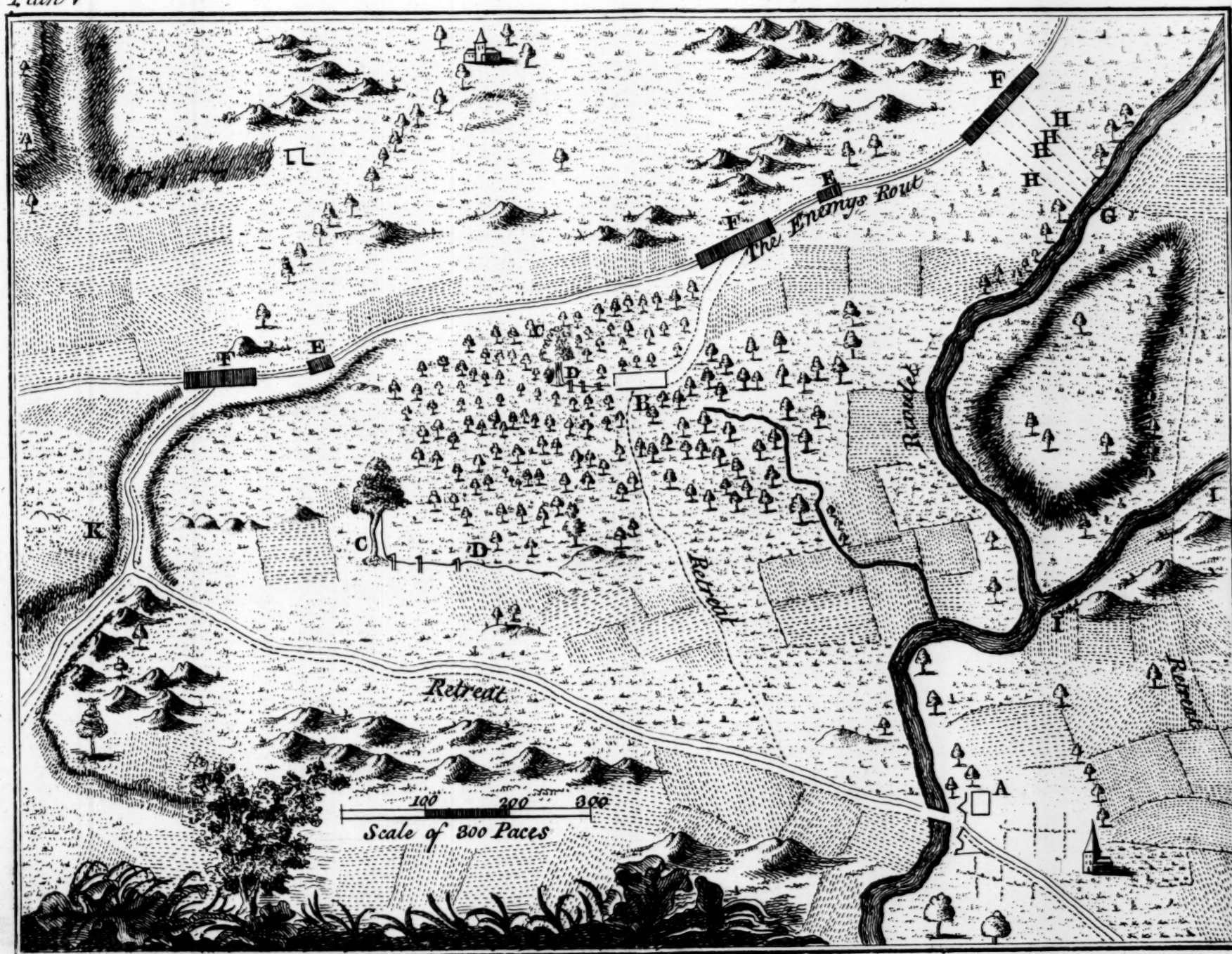
Plan. III.



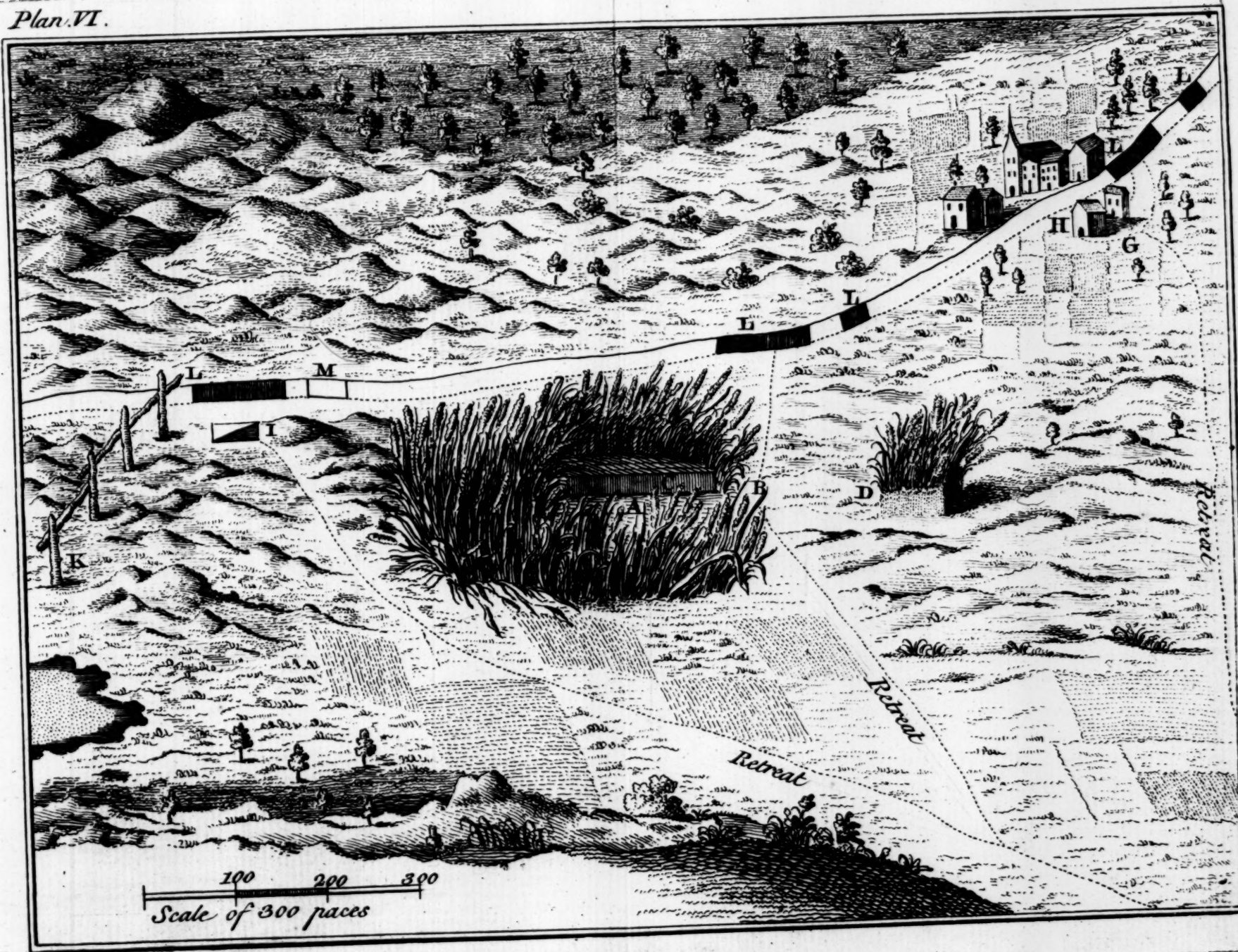
Plan IV



Plan V



Plan VI.



Plan. VII.

